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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»



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### Israelis shoot and wound 6 Palestinians

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded six Palestinians in Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Nablus, Palestinian and military sources said Wednesday. Three Palestinians were hit Tuesday night when their car failed to stop at a roadblock in East Jerusalem, military sources said. Palestinians, however, said there was no army checkpoint at the scene. Two masked Palestinians were shot in Nablus Wednesday as they read out a eulogy to Khalil Al Wazir, (Abu Jihad), who was a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, shot dead in Tunis on April 16, 1988. A passerby was also wounded in the incident.

### Guerrillas ambush Israeli troops

**TYRE (AP)** — Arab guerrillas ambushed an Israeli soldier in an Israeli military base in Tyre, Lebanon, Wednesday, a day after a roadside bomb killed three Israeli soldiers and critically wounded two. Security sources said the attack was staged at daybreak near the village of Houla southeast of Marjayoun, where Israel's surrogate Lebanese militia is headquartered. Also Wednesday, waves of Israeli jet fighters staged mock raids over South Lebanon. Thunderous sonic booms sent villagers scurrying to take shelter in basements or olive groves. But no bombing was reported, Mr. Dik reported.

### Israeli atomic sewage flows to nature reserve

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — Sewage from a nuclear facility was discharged into a nature reserve in southern Israel, apparently by workers battling a plague of mosquitoes, the environment ministry said Wednesday. The sewage was harmless to the environment, said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid. He denied a report in the daily Haaretz that samples from the site showed radioactivity. The incident occurred last August, and Israel Radio said the authorities "made strenuous efforts to prevent the affair being publicized." Haaretz said the discharge came from sewage treatment pools at the nuclear research centre in the desert, which consists of a reactor and surrounding buildings. A nature inspector found it trickling along a dry river bed into the little crater.

### 2 charged in death of Jordanian in U.S.

**ROCKY MOUNT, North Carolina (AP)** — Two men have been charged in the slaying of a Jordanian convenience store clerk who was doused with gasoline and set on fire, police said. The attack Tuesday afternoon on Walid Al Hourani, a Jordanian immigrant living in Farmville, was an apparent act of retaliation for an earlier dispute, police said. Mr. Hourani, 30, was burned over a large portion of his body. He died early Wednesday at the burn center of UNC hospitals in Chapel Hill, a hospital spokesman said. Herbert Joyner, 29, and Loranzo Darnell Norwood, 30, were charged with first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, assault with intent to kill and burning of a building, police said. Mr. Joyner faces an additional charge of armed robbery.

### Hero's welcome for Bush in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY (AP)** — Former U.S. President George Bush, who forged the allied coalition which drove Iraq out of Kuwait, was given a hero's welcome when he arrived here Wednesday with his wife Barbara. Accompanied by former Secretary of State James Baker and his wife, Mr. Bush was cheered by a huge crowd at the airport when they arrived for a three-day visit. Security was tight, with hundreds of armed policemen posted around the airport. They were greeted by the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and whisked away by limousine to the royal palace. But to the disappointment of thousands of Kuwaitis lining the airport road to hail the former president, the Bush motorcade took a different route for security reasons.

## Rabin says Israel will accept land-for-peace deal with Palestinians

Israeli, Egyptian leaders voice 'high hopes' peace talks will resume in Washington April 20

**ISMAILIA, Egypt (Agencies)** — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Wednesday Israel would accept a land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians, as President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt voiced "high hopes" the Middle East peace talks will resume next week. Mr. Rabin said after four hours of talks with Mr. Mubarak in Egypt's Suez Canal city of Ismailia that Israel did not aim to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip but could not return to its pre-1967 borders. "Our position, in contrast to the position of the previous government, is based on acceptance of (U.N.) Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of negotiations with Syria," Mr. Rabin told a press conference. "It's also the basis of negotiations when it comes to deciding on the permanent status of the territories with the Palestinians, after the interim period," he said.

The Palestinians have long demanded a formal Israeli acceptance of the resolutions — calling for a land-for-peace settlement between Israel and the Arabs — as the basis of a deal on the occupied territories. "The position of the present government is: We don't want to annex the bulk of almost two million Palestinians who reside in the territories, but this is not related to the interim agreement but for the permanent solution," Mr. Rabin said. The bilateral Israeli-Palestinian talks, under the U.S.-sponsored peace initiative launched in October 1991, are aimed at an accord on a five-year interim status for the territories. Negotiations on a final settlement are to open at the start of the third year of the interim period. On Syria, Mr. Rabin said Israel accepted the principle of a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. "We will not negotiate the dimension before knowing for what kind of peace. There is an interrelation between the purpose (of peace) and the dimension of the withdrawal," he said. Mr. Mubarak said he had "very high hopes" the Middle East peace talks would resume as scheduled next Tuesday in Washington, after four months in limbo because to the Palestinian expulsion crisis. "This will be decided at the

(Continued on page 4)

## Mulqi blames banks and municipality for dramatic rise in real estate prices

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — Badri Al Mulqi, the former director-general of the Department of Land and Survey (DLS), has heavily blamed banks and the Municipality of Greater Amman for real estate price rises during the periods 1972-1983 and 1990-1992. Addressing senior bankers at the Association of Banks in Jordan, Mr. Mulqi said bank managers associated with clients in real estate trading after securing credit from their banks. Mr. Mulqi, who did not give any names, said such deals were witnessed mostly during the period from 1972 to 1983 when, he said, banks were extending large credits to finance wide-ranging real estate transactions.

Maher Shukri, general manager of Amman Bank for Investment and former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), agreed with Mr. Mulqi that bank credits were used for real estate trade at that time but he blamed the clients for misusing the funds that were lent to them. Dr. Shukri pointed out that the Central Bank had intervened then to curb granting "overdrafts" or "advances under current accounts" because banks could not control or even follow up on such credit facilities. Mr. Mulqi classified real estate activities in the Jordanian market into five specific time periods: 1952-1967, 1967-1971, 1972-1983, 1984-1989, 1990-1992. In addition to the role of



Badri Al Mulqi

banks in the third period (1972-1983), Mr. Mulqi cited other six reasons which extraordinarily and very quickly drove up real estate prices. He said unexpected population growth, inflation and price rises of consumer goods, stability and security, flow of funds from Jordanian expatriates and the people's drive to direct savings to real estate investment had all combined to force

(Continued on page 4)



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) Wednesday meets with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Ismailia (AFP photo)

## Jordan streamlining priorities in peace process, internal front

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**IN THE FLURRY** of diplomatic and political activities that preceded an Arab decision on whether to resume bilateral peace talks with Israel in Washington on April 20, Jordan wanted for itself a back seat, leaving it up to the Palestinian side of the joint delegation to accept or reject the new "package of actions, statements and gestures" that the U.S. has put together to lure them back to the negotiations table.

On the internal front, however, Jordanians spent the last in the peace closely examining and finalising their priorities at home. Having taken for granted that the April 16 Arab coordination meeting in Damascus would come up with a definite agreement to resume negotiations with Israel, a Jordanian delegation went through the motions of consultations with State Department officials in Washington on April 13. Initial indications were that the Jordanians were briefed close-

ly on the compromise package and given a clear indication of what Washington means when it says it will be a "full partner" in the peace process. Unlike the Palestinians and other Arab countries who sent senior representatives for the pre-April 20 consultations in Washington, most notable of which was Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the Jordanian government was content with sending Ambassador in the U.S. Fayez Tarawneh to the State Department to see what the others were doing to resume the talks.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

After the meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian on Tuesday, the ambassador said Washington reaffirmed its commitment as a "full partner" in the peace process. Predictable, Dr. Tarawneh also said Jordan's decision to return to the negotiating table with Israel "will be part of the Arab decision" expected in Damascus on April 16.

Abdul Salam Al Majali, the Prime Minister, Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, went on record as saying earlier that his government had not approved the agenda, which was reached with the Israelis on Oct. 28 indicating Jordan's intention to revise it, yet. But the amendments are not likely to be so substantial as to present a big obstacle in the face of achieving progress on the Jordanian-Israeli front.

For Jordan, real progress in

(Continued on page 4)

## Washington proposes 'continuous' peace talks

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The United States would like Arab-Israeli peace talks to stay in virtual continuous session once they resume next week, diplomats said. They spoke to Reuters after Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian and other U.S. experts on the peace process met Jordanian and Syrian negotiators ahead of the planned resumption of the talks on April 20.

"The Americans want to move from the concept of holding separate rounds of talks to having one continuous session with short recess periods," said one source familiar with the meetings. Mr. Djerejian and his team were to meet Palestinian and Lebanese negotiators Wednesday and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rahinovitch, who doubles as his country's chief negotiator with Syria, on Thursday.

There have been eight rounds of talks, usually lasting two to three weeks, since the peace process was inaugurated in October 1991 at a peace conference in Madrid.

The parties succeeded in ironing out initial procedural problems but have made little progress on the core substantive issues that separate them. There is hope, however, they can move faster now with a new U.S. administration in place willing to play a more active role in the negotiations.

The talks were suspended on the final day of the eighth round of Dec. 17 when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories to South Lebanon where most of them still remain. The Arabs have still not formally announced their participation in next week's negotiations. They are expected to do so when Arab foreign ministers meet in Damascus on Friday.

According to the source, the U.S. officials said the United States felt it was time to pick up the pace of negotiations and wanted 1993 to be a decisive year. The Americans are also wor-

(Continued on page 4)

## Sudan Christians complain of discrimination

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**KHARTOUM** — The church bells still ring every Sunday and hundreds of Sudanese Christians heed the summons for prayer. On this Good Friday, Khartoum's six-decade old Catholic cathedral gave a complete mass to worshippers who have no fear of saying their prayers at the heart of the Muslim-dominated northern Sudan but still feel they are the victims of systematic government discrimination.

"The authorities never try to stop us from coming to the church. We are free to come here and pray," says a northern Sudanese Christian electrician who asked not to be named. This engineer and other Sudanese Christians who attended the Good Friday mass, however, complain of grave injustices and discrimination that Sudan's Islamic military regime exercises against the country's 3.5 million Christians.

"There is definitely a government policy of discrimination against Christians," a Catholic priest who requested anonymity told the Jordan Times. A Sudanese Christian who emigrated from the war-ravaged south to Khartoum three years ago claims the government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir discriminates against Christians in education and employment, and is coercing them into converting to Islam.

Government officials deny the charges, insisting that all Sudanese citizens are given equal treatment regardless of their religious faith. "We never tried to force Islam on Christians. We never tried to discriminate," Justice Minister Abdul Aziz Shaddo said in Khartoum last week. Sudan imposed Islamic law (Sharia) in 1983 under former President Ja'far Numeiri, and the current Revolutionary Command Council, which came to power in a military coup in 1989, reassessed the country's Islamic orientation. "Islamic orientation in this country is a search of identity rather than religious fanaticism," said Mr. Shaddo.

Sudanese Christians, however, insist that the moderate face Sudanese officials portray is a cover for a systematic policy aimed at denying Christians their religious freedom, forcing or luring them to join the Muslim faith. The Catholic bishops of Sudan claimed in November last year that the government "was openly promoting policies that discriminate against non-Muslims."

They said that government was denying Christian students admission to universities unless they pass an Islamic education class while other sources say the regime in Khartoum is playing hunger politics, manipulating the distribution of food aid in the south to promote its Islamisation campaign. In February Pope John Paul II visited Khartoum and gave what some observers described a lecture in religious tolerance to Sudanese officials.

Sudanese Christians say the situation slightly improved after the Pope's visit, but worsened soon thereafter. Sudanese officials say that accusations of religious discrimination are used by the rebels in the south to cover up the political nature of Africa's longest running civil war and are supported by the West which has portrayed Islam as the universal threat after the end of the cold war.

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## Government, publishers at loggerheads over newsprint tax; newspaper prices may go up

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — Prices of Jordanian newspapers and magazines are set to rise dramatically if a dispute between publishers and the government over an unprecedented newsprint tax imposed in January is not resolved. Publishers say they are awaiting government action to eliminate or at least reduce the newsprint tax. They say that they would be forced to increase the prices of their publications if no substantial reduction of the tax was offered to them. The rate of the tax was originally set to be five per cent, but it rose to 25 per cent as a result of other bureaucratic accumulations.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, in a meeting three weeks ago with editors of newspapers and magazines, has promised to review the issue of the new tax. "We are waiting for the government to announce its final decision," said Seif Al Sharif, director-general of the Jordan Press and Publications Company which publishes the Arabic daily Al Dustour. "We have been promised that action would be taken soon" to address the newspaper industry's complaint that it could not continue to absorb the extra tax much longer and would be forced to increase the prices of newspapers, Mr. Sharif told the Jordan Times. Officials at other newspaper

ers and magazines echoed the comment and said unless the issue was resolved soon, they would be announcing an increase in their prices, in some cases as much as 100 per cent. It is estimated that the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, which has the largest circulation in Jordan, will incur an additional expense of JD 500,000 to JD 550,000 per year with the newsprint tax. Al Dustour will have to pay around JD 400,000. Sawt Al Shaab, which is already in dire financial straits, could be in worse trouble, facing an additional cost of up to JD 200,000 every year to pay for the newsprint tax. Interestingly the government itself stands to lose income in the bargain since it

owns a major part of shares in all the three establishments. Jordan imports more than 25,000 tonnes of newsprint every year from the U.S., Canada, Scandinavian countries and Finland. The average cost these days is around \$550 per tonne. Offers are also reaching the Jordanian market from Russia, an option that has not been exercised to any significant level until now. The tax was imposed ahead of the emergence of may be dozens of new publications in Jordan. In addition to those dozens of monthlies and weeklies, at least four newspapers are being printed by political parties, which are granted the right to have one publication in line with the Political Parties

Law enacted last year. The newsprint levy is seen by many, especially journalists, as in contradiction of the code of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which advocates literacy and increased newspaper readership everywhere in the world. Journalists and publishers also contend that many governments in advanced countries actually subsidise newsprint in a bid to raise the political, economic and social awareness of their people. The three main Arabic-language dailies and the Jordan Times are priced at 100 fils each, and if the tax is not reduced, their publishers say, they will be forced to increase

the price to 200 fils. The Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited — which publishes Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times — and the Jordan Press and Publication Company Limited posted high profits in the past two years mainly through a dramatic boom in the volume of advertisements, and many believe that the newsprint tax is basically aimed at taxing these two institutions. "The government saw them making good profits and found that a newsprint tax was the best way to get some more money out of them," commented a critic of the move. "What the government appears to be overlooking is the fact that it will not be the newspaper publishers who will

be paying the increase but the readers themselves," noted the critic, who preferred not to be named lest such criticism might jeopardise the outcome of the government review of the issue. And at least one member of the Cabinet says that the government, at this point than ever, should have taken care not to lock horns with the press over the issue. "The government" could ill-afford to alienate the newspaper industry, particularly over additional fees and taxes," a minister reportedly told his colleagues during cabinet session. "The government needs all the support it could get from the press," he reportedly said. (Continued on page 4)



## Iraq seeks return of its airliners stranded abroad

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraqi officials lobbied the head of the U.N. sanctions committee Tuesday for the return of a reported 37 commercial airliners stranded abroad since the start of the Gulf war early in 1991, diplomats said.

In a separate development, envoys from the United States, Britain and France protested to Iraq's U.N. ambassador over shooting at U.S. warplanes patrolling a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq last week.

Riyadh Al Qaysi, head of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's International Organisations Division, and Iraqi Airways Director General Nour Eddin Al Safi told Sanctions Committee Chairman Terence O'Brien of New Zealand that the aircraft were deteriorating and long overdue for overhaul, diplomats said.

Mr. O'Brien was expected to refer the matter to the Sanctions Committee, which has the same membership as the 15-nation Security Council.

The Iraqi officials and Baghdad's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun also scheduled meetings with other council members.

The committee has so far refused to allow the aircraft to be flown back to Iraq on grounds they are an economic resource whose return would be a breach of sanctions imposed shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraq dispersed the airliners to foreign airports to protect them against possible attack shortly before the Gulf war began.

A knowledgeable source said the 37 planes include 15 Boeing jetliners of all types — including 747 Jumbos, 707s, 727s and 737s — and 22 Russian-built Ilyushin 76s.

Six of the Boeings were said to be in Amman and four in Tunis. Another five Boeings were in Tehran, together with all 22 Ilyushins. The source said Iraqi Airways had no civilian airliners in Iraq itself.

The airline had engineers in Amman and Tunis to carry out some maintenance work but had been unable to service the planes in Tehran, the source added.

Meanwhile envoys from the United States, Britain and France protested to Mr. Hamdoun on Tuesday about the incident in the "no-fly" zone last Friday, saying Iraq would be held responsible for the consequences if it again fired at an allied plane.

Mr. Hamdoun denied Iraq had fired at American planes and suggested the U.S. pilots had been in error.

The ambassador was also quoted as saying he hoped the allies would not draw conclusions from what was probably an accident and would take note of Iraq's pattern of behaviour before and after the alleged incident, they added.

The Western diplomats, Deputy U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker, British Ambassador Sir David Hannay and French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee met Mr. Hamdoun at the United Nations, but did not bring up the issue in the Security Council.

## Mediators contact Egypt militants

CAIRO (R) — A group of Islamic leaders pledged on Wednesday to carry on efforts to broker a ceasefire between the Egyptian government and Muslim militants despite the assassination of a police general.

Mohammad Ismail, a writer on Islamic affairs, told Reuters the group of 25 scholars and intellectuals sympathetic to "the Islamic trend," sent a message to Muslim militant leaders in prison on Tuesday night and were waiting for an answer.

The group, led by a popular Muslim television evangelist, represents Egypt's first effort at national level to broker an end to its year-long surge of political violence.

More than 120 people have been killed and the country's vital tourist industry has been savaged by militants trying to overthrow the government.

On Tuesday, Interior Minister Abdel Halim Musa played down the mediation effort, saying his meeting with the group last week apparently spurred the militants to assassinate a police general in southern Egypt on Sunday.

Security forces looking for the killers have swept Assiut province for the past three days. Mr. Musa has vowed revenge but Mr. Ismail said the mediation group's efforts had only just started and would not be derailed by the killing.

"We are carrying on. We have not stopped. This is only the beginning," he said. "Excesses can happen on either side. The police and the militants are in what amounts to a blood feud."

The message, delivered to a lawyer to pass to militant leaders in prison, suggests a ceasefire, not a political solution to the crisis.

Mr. Ismail said it proposes that the government should stop torture and release hundreds of militants detained without trial in return for a halt to militant attacks on police, Christians and foreign tourists.

Another member of the group, Fehmi Hawelidi, said it also had raised the possibility of allowing Islamic political parties, something Egypt's government has categorically rejected.

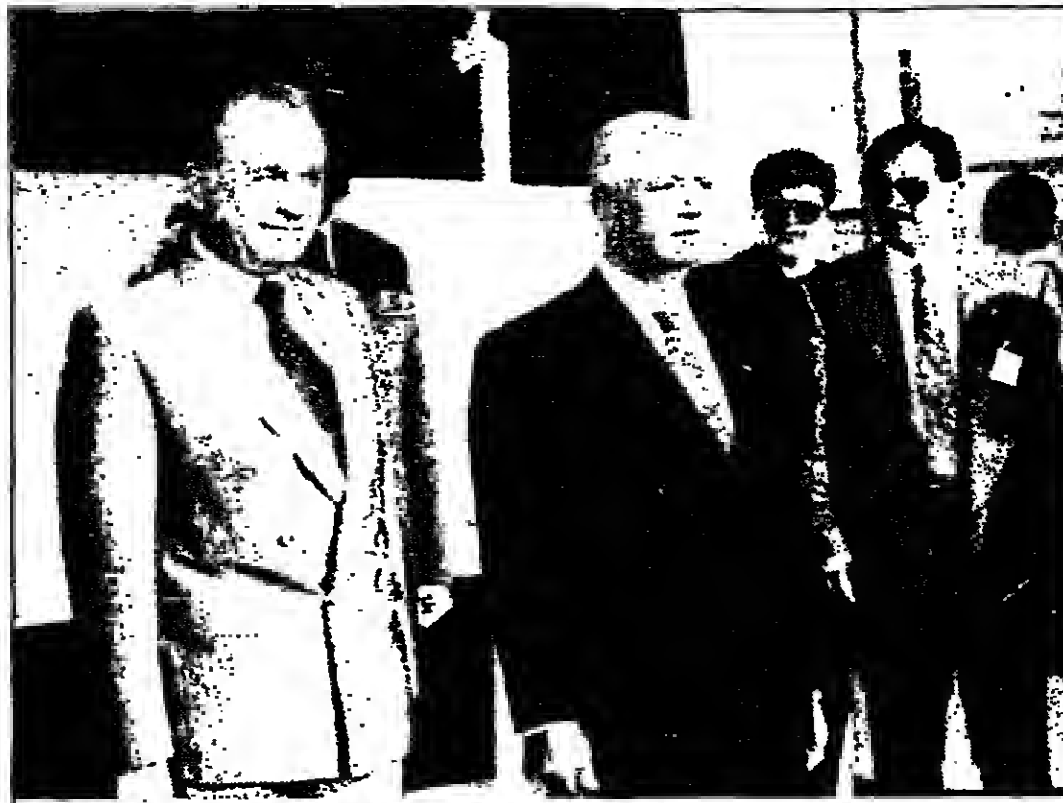
Mr. Ismail said the group, which is not affiliated to any organisation, would try to attract other Islamic public figures who could give it weight but did not intend to become a mass movement.

He added that it was the militants who, after initial soundings, asked for Sheikh Metwally Sharaawi, a national celebrity who for over 20 years has broadcast religious talk shows on television, to join the group.

Sheikh Sharaawi, an Islamic scholar in his 80s, enjoys wide respect among the millions of religious Egyptians who hate politics.

Mr. Ismail said Egypt's state-appointed Islamic authorities, the mufti of the republic and the sheikh of the ancient Azhar mosque, had not been consulted over the initiative.

"If we had discussed it with them, the operation would have stopped before it started. Those people are unacceptable to the other side," he said, referring to the militants.



ILIESCU VISITS BEIRUT: Romanian President Ion Iliescu (left) stands with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi at a welcoming ceremony upon his arrival in Beirut Tuesday on a six-hour visit (AFP photo)

## Dozens of rockets pound Kabul

ISLAMABAD (R) — Dozens of rockets slammed into the Afghan capital Tuesday, killing and injuring many civilians, in the bloodiest attack on Kabul for more than one month, Radio Kabul, reported.

At least 77 rockets fired from positions to the south and southwest of the battered Afghan capital hit residential areas in the city centre, around the presidential palace and the northern suburbs, the state-run radio said.

It said an unknown number of people had been killed or injured in the attacks, the most serious since the rival Afghan guerrilla groups signed a Pakistani-brokered peace accord in Islamabad on March 7.

"The rocket attack on the residential areas of Kabul comes at a time when our faithful people are looking forward to the implementation of the Islamabad accord and are waiting for complete calm," said the radio, monitored in Pakistan.

The radio did not say who was responsible for the fighting.

"Some warmongering groups have resorted to adventurism without informing their leaders and are trying to prevent the implementation of the accord," it said.

Sporadic clashes erupted at the weekend between the hardline Sunni Muslim Ittehad-e-Islami party and its Iran-backed Shi'ite Hezbe-Wahdat rivals. They have been fighting for months in the west where the two bitter foes have their headquarters.

"Thousands of people have been killed in factional fighting since the guerrillas took power from the former communist government last April."

The fractious Mujahideen parties, allies in the 14-year insurgency, are deadlocked over implementing the Islamabad accord.

Under the accord Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was to name his cabinet within two weeks in consultation with his arch-rival President Burhanuddin Rabbani.



Burhanuddin Rabbani



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

The two have failed to agree on who is to hold the powerful post of defence minister.

Mr. Rabbani has insisted on retaining his current defence minister, Ahmad Shah Masoud, who has held the job since the guerrillas seized power. Mr. Hekmatyar has vowed to sack him.

Diplomats had warned of more fighting unless the two can find a compromise.

Mr. Hekmatyar's forces engaged government troops loyal to Mr. Masoud in bloody battles for possession of Kabul that ended only with last month's peace accord.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sudanese opposition says leaders held

CAIRO (R) — Former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's Umma Party said Tuesday the military government had arrested four more of its leaders over the past few days. Mr. Mahdi, Sudan's last democratically-elected prime minister, was detained for 14 hours and then released a week ago. In a statement faxed to Reuters in Cairo, Umma spokesman Mubarak Al Mahdi said two ex-ministers, Habib Samroub Al Dou and Fadallah Burmat Nasser, were arrested on Saturday and Monday respectively. Two other senior officials in the party, Ibrahim Ali Abdul Qadir and Al Sadeq Ibrahim Ali Abdul Qadir were arrested and two more detained for a short time and then released. The statement also said student leaders were arrested on the edge of the capital Khartoum which turned into an anti-government rally. Sudan's Islamic rulers have kept a tight grip on political dissent since coming to power in a military coup in 1989, abolishing a three-year experiment with democracy. Political sources in Khartoum say the government, under pressure from Western governments over allegations of human rights abuses, have changed the tactics recently. Instead of detaining political opponents for months at a time, security forces take dissidents to unofficial detention centres for short periods of torture and rough treatment and then release them, the sources say. Unconfirmed reports spoke of sporadic signs of popular discontent in the country's Arab north earlier this year, as prices and fuel shot up and the civil war in the south drags on.

### Iran starts building airport on Qeshm

NICOSIA (R) — Iran began building an airport on Qeshm Island Tuesday and plans to turn it into a major free-trade zone in the Hormuz Strait, the official IRNA news agency said. Air Force engineers will build a well-equipped air strip at a cost of 6.5 billion rials (\$4.2 million) over 18 months, IRNA said. It will be expanded to an international airport later. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government is playing up Qeshm as a future showcase for a dynamic, free-market economy it hopes to build. But a parliamentary committee issued a scathing report about the Qeshm free authority last week, accusing it of breaking laws, financial irregularities and turning the island into a centre of smuggling goods to the nearby port of Bandar Abbas.

### Australian troops kill Somali shopkeeper

MOGADISHU (R) — Australian troops shot dead a shopkeeper during a weapons sweep in a central Somalia village, a U.S. military spokesman said Wednesday. Captain Joe Davis said the Australians were searching for weapons in Berdaale, northwest of Baidoa, Tuesday when the shopkeeper raised a weapon at them. The soldiers fired at the man, who later died in hospital. Two other gunmen fled, Capt. Davis said, adding that 30 to 40 light arms were found in the shop. After they discovered the weapons the Australians were fired on again but these were no casualties and the gunmen escaped. In another incident, Capt. Davis said a grenade was lobbed at Zimbabwean troops patrolling the capital's Bakara market on Tuesday night. There were no casualties but the military vehicle was damaged. Zimbabwean and Australian troops are part of a 23-nation force sent to Somalia last December to restore order and protect the distribution of food relief to the starving.

### Syria, Romania sign trade agreements

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria and Romania have signed an agreement to promote trade cooperation, officials said. Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Imadi and Constantin Fota, Romania's trade and tourism minister, signed the accord Tuesday shortly before Romanian President Ion Iliescu left after a 24-hour visit to Syria. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted Mr. Iliescu as saying 2,000 private companies had been set up in Romania in joint ventures with Syrian investors.

### Hughes regrets loss of Arabsat contract

BAHRAIN (AP) — Officials of Hughes Communications International Inc. expressed regret Tuesday that the company had lost out on a \$250 million contract to build two spacecraft for Arabsat, ArabSat, or the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation, is headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. According to the London-based Lebanese daily Al Hayat, Arabsat has set a deadline of the end of April for the French Aerospatiale to accept \$257.09 million contract. The decision was taken at a meeting last week of the Arabsat board in Cairo, and was reported briefly in the Arabic press. It reversed a Sept. 30, 1992 decision asking Hughes to negotiate a contract. Hughes is a subsidiary of the Los Angeles-based G.M. Hughes Electronics. Stephanie T. Williams issued a statement on behalf of Hughes Communications International saying: "Hughes believed that Arabsat's terms and conditions presented an unacceptable financial risk to the company." It quoted the company chairman, Steven Dorfman, as saying: "It is regrettable that Hughes and Arabsat could not consummate this contract." He added: "Hughes owes it to its stockholders and employees to pursue only that business that offers a reasonable return on investment with acceptable associated risk." He said he hoped Hughes would be considered for future contracts. Competition for the latest project was among Aerospatiale, which built the first three Arabsat spacecraft, Hughes and British Aerospace. Arabsat can be used by all members of the Arab League. It is supported by eight Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia.

### Egypt-assembled tank put on trial

CAIRO (R) — General Gordon Sullivan, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, watched trials of an Egyptian-assembled M1A1 tank near the Suez Canal city of Ismailia Tuesday, a Pentagon spokesman said. Major Rick Thomas spoke to Reuters from Washington to correct an earlier Reuters report which quoted Egyptian defence sources as saying that the U.S. general watching the trial had been General Joseph Hoar, commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East. Spokesman for Gen. Hoar and the U.S. embassy in Cairo denied that he was in Egypt. The Egyptian sources said Tuesday's event was the first shooting trial of the U.S.-designed M1A1, which is being built under licence in Egypt in a \$2 billion deal mostly financed by U.S. military aid. Five M1A1 tanks have been assembled from kits supplied by General Dynamics Corporation, the sources said.

## Inmate offered a deal to lie about trade centre blast — lawyer

NEW YORK (R) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) offered to have a convicted murderer's sentence reduced if he lied and said he overheard two men plotting the bombing of the World Trade Centre, a civil rights lawyer charged Tuesday.

The men are Al Sayid Nosair, who was convicted of lesser charges in the killing of radical Israeli Rabbi Meir Kahane in 1991, and Mohammad Salameh, a suspect in the bombing.

"The FBI is desperately trying to get something that would put Nosair at the centre of their large hypothetical conspiracy," said lawyer William Kunstler.

He represents Khadijah Nosair, the wife of Mr. Nosair, who is serving seven to 22 years at the state prison in Attica, New York.

The FBI did not return repeated telephone calls for comment.

Mr. Kunstler told Reuters the FBI offered the deal to Abdullah Kasim, 37, a black Muslim and jailhouse lawyer, who was helping Mr. Nosair with his appeal.

Mr. Kasim is serving two consecutive life sentences for murder and was at Attica until six months ago, when he was transferred to the state prison in Comstock, New York.

Last week, FBI agents visited him and proposed the deal, Mr. Kunstler said.

He said that after the trade centre bombing of Feb. 26, in which six people were killed and over 1,000 injured, Mr. Nosair was placed in solitary confinement.

A short time later, Mr. Kasim also was placed in solitary confinement and accused of conspiring with Mr. Nosair to escape from Attica, he said.

According to Mr. Kasim, the FBI offered him money and said it would arrange to have his sentence reduced and to have him released from solitary confinement if he would lie and say he overheard Mr. Salameh and Mr. Nosair plotting the bombing in the Attica visiting room, Mr. Kunstler said.

"Kasim was threatened that if he didn't cooperate, they would make his life a living hell," he said.

Prison authorities accused Mr. Nosair of trying to escape after agents found five forged Nicaraguan passports in the name of Nosair and his family on Ibrahim Al Gabrowny, 42.

Mr. Gabrowny was arrested on March 4, the same day as Mr. Salameh, for allegedly assaulting two federal investigators. He is Mr. Nosair's cousin and a mentor to the family.

Mr. Gabrowny, Mr. Salameh, and two other suspects, Mahmoud Abu Halima, the alleged mastermind of the bombing, and Nidal Ayyad, a chemical engineer, have all visited Mr. Nosair in prison.

Mr. Kunstler said that after the visit by the FBI, Mr. Kasim revealed the information about the deal and his fears to a member of the Muslim Council of Imams who works at the prison.

The lawyer said he is convinced that authorities want to get any inmate to say that Mr. Nosair confessed to them about the bombing.

"It's all part of a scheme by the government to flesh out a mythical conspiracy," he said.

## Yemeni opposition leader attacked

SANAA (AP) — Unidentified assailants launched a nighttime grenade attack on the home of a leading opposition politician, authorities said Wednesday. No deaths or injuries were reported.

The attack on Abdul Rahman Ali Al Jifri, leader of the Sons of Yemen League, came just two weeks before the country is to hold its first multiparty elections on the Arabian Peninsula.

The parliament elections were twice put off by authorities, who cited a wave of assassination attempts and other violence that has targeted politicians of every stripe over the past 18 months.

"This is the third violent attack on members of the league in 10 days, Mr. Jifri told the Associated Press after the grenade attack, which occurred just before midnight Tuesday.

On Monday, unidentified assailants opened fire on the home of Aloya Ben Suwail, a league candidate running for election in Shabwa governorate

southern Yemen. Mr. Suwail escaped without injury, league sources said.

Another league candidate, Omar Ben Salaw, also narrowly missed injury when his car was fired upon a week ago in Hadramaut province, also in the south, according to the sources.

Following the overnight attack, Interior Minister Ghaleb, Al Qumeisb stated that security forces would do "all in their powers" to catch the assailants and to prevent further attacks.

There appeared to be no leads in the bombing.

Yemen's elections, twice postponed since November, are now scheduled for April 27. Some 5,000 candidates are running for the 301-seat parliament.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh were assured Sunday that the ministers of interior and defence were working to try to prevent any further violence.

The biggest parties running in the election are Mr. Saleh's

General People's Congress and Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party, as well as the fundamentalist Muslim Al Islah party.

Mr. Jifri's Sons of Yemen League is fielding 92 candidates, including three women, and has endorsed a further 27 independent candidates.

"We take this as a warning from our opponents, but not one that we will heed," Mr. Jifri said. "They want to frighten us, but they are actually telling us that we are succeeding with our message to the Yemen people."

Mr. Jifri has been a sharp critic of Yemen's transitional government, a coalition of the General People's Congress and the Yemen Socialist Party.

Mr. Jifri and his league are rooted in the South, where they were opponents of the Marxist rule that prevailed until the May 1990 merger with the North. In those days, they had links with Saudi Arabia, which opposes communism in any form on the peninsula.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pifet Hercules  
17:45 Superchamps  
18:15 L'ecole des fans  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Envoye Special  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Zoro  
21:10 Quantum Leap  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Movie of the Week: "The Trouble with Spies"

#### PRAYER TIMES

8:42 Fajr  
12:36 (Sunrise) Duha  
13:36 Dhuhur  
16:13 'Asr  
19:09 Maghrib  
20:30 Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Assiout Church Tel. 623583  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 623541  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 623526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 623526  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823834 and 654932  
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Khartoum weather conditions are prevailing in the Kingdom. Therefore, it will be hot, dry and dusty and winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./Max. temp. 16 / 30  
Agaba ..... 20 / 39  
Deserts ..... 11 / 34

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Kharani ..... (—)  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ..... 885446  
Dr. Mohammad Imran ..... 612232  
Dr. Isam Al Asmar ..... 890394  
First Pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637035  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yaouub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ali Al Omani ..... (—)  
Al Ouds pharmacy ..... (—)

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Fire Brigade ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Prison Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

### HOSPITALS

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 632300  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381332  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. ..... 6442816  
Al-Khaznari, J. Amn. ..... 6424412  
Jabab Amman Maternity ..... 642462  
Malhas, J. Amn. ..... 636140  
Palatine, Shamsi ..... 6641714  
University Hospital ..... 645845  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 6612717  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafah ..... 7511126  
Army, Marfa ..... 8916195  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)963323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)90250  
Jbn Sina Hospital ..... (09)96732  
Al Hilan Modern Hospital ..... (09)90990

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department, at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
06:45 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Cairo, Agaba (RJ)  
06:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
17:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
18:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Paris (RJ)  
12:05 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Athens (RJ)  
13:00 ..... London (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:00 ..... Bahrain Doha (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
22:40 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

#### Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700 / 700  
Banana ..... 680 / 680  
Banana (Makassar) ..... 620 / 620  
Beans ..... 900 / 700  
Cabbage ..... 90 / 60  
Carrot ..... 150 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 100 / 100  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 120 / 100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 230 / 160  
Eggplant ..... 340 / 260  
Garlic ..... 500 / 400  
Grapfruit ..... 400 / 180  
Lemon ..... 400 / 150  
Marrow (large) ..... 400 / 150  
Marrow (small) ..... 200 / 150  
Mint ..... 100  
Onion (dry) ..... 320 / 260  
Onion (green) ..... 280 / 200  
Orange ..... 700 / 600  
Pepper (hot) ..... 260 / 200  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 280 / 200  
Potato ..... 280 / 150  
Spinach ..... 100 / 50



# Weekender

## Wheelchair basketball makes inroads in Jordan

By Aileen Bannayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH) has lately had a bustling two weeks of activities that are bound to leave a positive impact on its future plans in general and wheelchair basketball in particular.

The JSFH in cooperation with the United States embassy in Amman hosted a two-week training seminar in which Dr. Kathleen Curtis, who specialises in the prevention of injuries of wheelchair athletes and in analysing the movement of disabled athletes for wheelchair basketball competitions, lectured on a number of issues of interest to players, coaches, and physicians. The activities were attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid and Minister of Youth Saleh Irshadat.

The two-week long visit of Dr. Curtis comes in the wake of the forming last year of the Mediterranean Zone of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF), headed by Jordan's Rizeq Al Masri. Participants from Syria and Oman also attended the latest workshops.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Curtis, who is an assistant professor at the University of Miami School of Medicine, talked about the series of lectures she gave in Amman and Irbid, and her impressions of the state of wheelchair basketball in Jordan.

"The primary purpose of my visit to Jordan was to assist the JSFH with the development of their wheelchair basketball programme. We held a clinic for coaches, players, therapists, and physicians and anyone that was interested in wheelchair basketball classification and

training. We also talked about the requirements in the process of classifying athletes for competition which is an essential part of wheelchair basketball development in preparing a team for competition. Also under discussion were techniques and ways to train athletes so that they will enhance their skills while preventing injuries."

In addition to lectures and activities at the JSFH, Dr. Curtis held a coaches' clinic in conjunction with the Jordan Basketball Federation and the departments of Physical Education at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University and lectured at the Sports Medicine Federation.

Mr. Masri told the Jordan Times that most of the country's coaches and those interested in wheelchair basketball attended the in-depth lectures of Dr. Curtis which dealt with various topics ranging from functional classification for basketball to principles of exercise physiology and training techniques, ways of preventing injuries, stretching techniques, and how coaches and players can maximise their performance while travelling for competition, in addition to wheelchair basketball skills and how to meet the needs of disabled athletes.

Dr. Curtis said she was impressed by the interest of everyone attending the seminar. "We had twice the number of participants we expected. We also had participants from the West Bank, Syria and Oman about 12 people came from Irbid every day, which is a very positive sign. 50 people took part in the coaching seminar."

Dr. Curtis said she noticed that the level of interest and enthusiasm in developing sports for the disabled is very "strong, and the level of understanding of the athletes

is very impressive.

"I saw Jordan's basketball team at the 1989 International Stoke Mandeville Games in England, since then, I think that they have learnt and developed a lot," she commented. "They are probably one of the strongest groups in promoting their sport and in serving as a resource for their sport in terms of working as coaches and technical experts for their sport. They know the rules, coaching techniques and strategies for playing basketball. They are a resource that should be tapped in Jordan."

Dr. Curtis, who serves on the executive committee of the IWBF, said the main area that probably hinders the further development of disabled athletes in the Kingdom is the lack of equipment.

"The national basketball team has custom ordered wheelchairs. But other athletes do not have this type of specialised equipment. To develop a strong programme in any sport you really need to have a constant access to equipment which maximises your performance. The equipment is expensive, and without it you are often unable to perform or train in a way that best uses your abilities."

Dr. Curtis pointed out that specialised wheelchairs for sports are lightweight and constantly require spare parts and maintenance. "Most athletes I met were frustrated by the fact that they don't have individual wheelchairs. It is like having different people using the same kind of track shoe. It just doesn't work. And everyday wheelchairs are not suited for competition. Access to supplies and maintenance for existing equipment is a must."

Dr. Curtis, who has been involved in teaching physical therapists, said her interest as



Minister of Youth Saleh Irshadat and Dr. Kathleen Curtis pose for a photograph with the participants of the training seminar in Amman

a volunteer has been wheelchair sports. She has been involved in coaching and classification of athletes. She has also done extensive research on injuries that disabled athletes sustain and help prevent these injuries.

"There's a lot of evidence that people who are confined to wheelchairs have problems with their shoulder joints, arms and wrists," she pointed out. "The arms were not made for propulsion, so it's natural that disabled people who practice wheelchair athletics have injuries. We have therefore developed some techniques of stretching and strengthening the muscles around the shoulders and paying attention to the posture in the wheelchair."

She added that coaches tend to concentrate on basketball skills, but it is very important to have aerobic conditioning prior to training, as well as balancing the muscles around the shoulders to prevent injury. "In pushing a wheelchair we tend to emphasise the muscles pushing forward, while actually the muscles that need to be strong to prevent injury are the muscles in the back of the shoulders. This principle is very important to prevent injuries and maximise the athletes' performance. We emphasised this in the lectures I had here."

Apart from her research and work, her other role as a member of the IWBF is seeking to develop educational resources for developing countries around the world. "We are looking at the needs of countries to further develop their wheelchair basketball programmes. Some of our highest priorities in this regard are to help people understand the notion of the importance of equipment and

how they can best adapt them to meet the needs of the individuals."

She said the IWBF is also trying to help the zones both identify and meet the needs of their particular regions. "One of the things we are working on is information on how to organise and hold a wheelchair basketball tournament. Certified referees who have received training in wheelchair basketball are approved by the IWBF as a must. There are no such referees in the Mediterranean Zone."

"We are hoping that wheelchair basketball will be officially sanctioned as an exhibition event at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. It is still under consideration, but if it is approved it will be the first time wheelchair basketball is showcased in the Olympic Games which will surely help our exposure a lot."

Dr. Curtis said she was impressed by the interest of everyone attending the seminar.

"We had twice the number of participants we expected. We also had participants from the West Bank, Syria and Oman about 12 people came from Irbid every day, which is a very positive sign. 50 people took part in the coaching seminar."

Dr. Curtis said she noticed that the level of interest and enthusiasm in developing sports for the disabled is very "strong, and the level of understanding of the athletes



Members of Jordan's national wheelchair basketball team play against members of Jordan's wheelchair basketball team at the JSFH court



Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Dr. Kathleen Curtis and JSFH officials at the opening ceremony of the training and classification seminar

## The passionate attachment

America's involvement with Israel, 1947 to the present

By George W. Ball and Douglas B. Ball  
New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1992  
382 pages. \$24.95

FOR generations of Americans George Ball has been a revered figure. As undersecretary of state in the Kennedy and Johnson administration he was a lonely voice in opposing America's growing involvement in Vietnam. For that courageous stand alone he earned the gratitude of his countrymen. But Mr. Ball's contribution has been far more. His wise and urbane counsel has helped guide U.S. policy in rebuilding Europe after World War II, aided President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis, and personified the humane side of America as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Except for the victory of Richard Nixon in the 1968, he probably would have been the secretary of state in Hubert Humphrey's presidency.

Such a distinguished background makes George Ball a statesman whose advice is usually eagerly sought. Indeed, his early opposition to U.S. involvement in Vietnam earned Mr. Ball a reputation as something of a prophet in international affairs and his earlier books, such as *Diplomacy For A Crowded World* and *The Past Has Another Pattern*, were widely reviewed and praised by critics across the political spectrum.

Now Mr. Ball, with the help of his historian son, Douglas, has turned his penetrating attention to the Middle East in an extraordinarily revealing book titled *The Passionate Attachment*. Astonishingly, the book is being almost totally ignored. The New York Times has not bothered to review it and critics around the country have been deafening by their silence. Of the major newspapers, only The Washington Post reviewed *The Passionate Attachment* in the two months since its publication, and its review was ludicrously flawed by the reviewer's Zionist prejudices.

The reason for this sudden shunning of one of America's most honoured figures is not hard to find. Mr. Ball is a trenchant critic of the United States' excessive support of Israel, what he calls "the passionate attachment" to another country that George Washington warned against in his farewell address. In the same way Mr. Ball once alerted the nation of the dangers of America's involvement in Vietnam, he now cautions against America's uncritical support of Israel and the dangers it holds for U.S. interests.

Mr. Ball writes: "It has become abundantly clear that our country's passionate attachment to Israel (is such that) moderate voices on either side have a hard time making themselves heard."

Mr. Ball's book provides that moderate voice missing so long in

America's relations with Israel. It is also a realistic voice. The *Passionate Attachment* is a primer on what might be called the real history of Israel. Unlike that usual gloss of apology and propaganda, Mr. Ball's book provides the first realistic and extended examination of how Israel came into being and how it has managed to influence U.S. policy since 1947.

Mr. Ball traces the cooptation of successive American administrations to Israel's subservience through each of the presidents since 1947. Only President Eisenhower stands out in this sad survey as an American leader with the grit to stand for principle and against Israeli violations of international law. Eisenhower forced Israel to comply with principle in halting its efforts to divert the waters of the Jordan River and to evacuate Egypt's Sinai peninsula, which it had occupied during the Suez crisis of 1956. But, observes Mr. Ball: "Until 1992, these were the last occasions on which America acted incisively towards Israel."

No president was more subservient than Ronald Reagan, of whom Mr. Ball writes: "From the beginning Reagan wore his heart on his sleeve... Reagan passively assisted Begin and Shamir to build settlements in an effort to 'create facts' and thus block peace except on their own terms. He also effectively gave Israel a right of veto over American policy on arms sales."

Mr. Ball assigns much of the credit — or blame — for Israel's ability to exercise such power over Washington to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Israel's lobby in the United States. Although Mr. Ball notes that only about one million of America's five million Jews are politically active, their effectiveness in magnified by the lobbying tactics of AIPAC. These include threatening members of Congress, pressuring the White House and maintaining active support of Israel while at the same time destroying its critics by blacklists, whisper campaigns and, as the shunning of Mr. Ball's book shows, discrediting or imposing a shield of silence around anyone AIPAC and its supporters perceive as unfriendly towards Israel.

Mr. Ball also provides an insightful examination of Israel and its political and social institutions. He notes Israel is not a democracy in the sense that most Americans perceive that political institution. Israel does not have a constitution or a Bill of Rights or a presidential veto, meaning its Jewish-dominated parliament functions practically unchecked, predictably favouring Jews. It imposes censorship and condones torture. Its society is rife with class and cultural warfare between favoured Western Jews (Ashkenazim) and disadvantaged Oriental Jews (Sephardim), rent by religious and nationalist extremists, plagued by prejudices embodied in law against non-Jews and women, and tending more towards the practices of theocracy than a true democracy.

Moreover, Israel maintains a military occupation over another people in total disregard of all international conventions and American ideals. Its occupation practices, Mr. Ball writes, are "illegal and inhumane (as) amply documented by the findings of Amnesty International (AI) and the annual human rights report of the State Department." Yet the United States continues to finance Israel more lavishly than any other country. It is this unprecedented U.S. aid that allows Israel to continue its quarter-century-old occupation and permits Israelis to maintain a standard of living far above what their own outmoded socialist economy produces.

Mr. Ball observes that now is the time to correct U.S. policy towards Israel and the Arab states. Gone is the absurd rationale that Israel is a "strategic asset" against Soviet penetration of the Middle East. The dissolution of the Soviet empire erases any lingering claim Israel has to its enormous demands on the U.S. treasury, or the unprecedented diplomatic and technological support the United States lavishes on the Jewish state.

What is needed now, Mr. Ball concludes, is for the United States to join with the other four permanent members — Britain, China, France and Russia — of the U.N. Security Council and adopt an omnibus resolution that would encapsulate the world's position on the fundamental issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This would include granting self-determination to the Palestinians, allowing Jerusalem to be the seat of government for both Palestine and Israel, ending Israel's occupation of Arab land, eliminating Jewish settlements in the occupied territories or placing settlers under Palestinian law, demilitarising the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley, and lifting the Arab boycott against Israel.

These are hardly extremist demands since the United Nations has, at one time or another, endorsed all of these positions. And, as Mr. Ball, eloquently concludes in his book, such actions demand implementation because "no country can possibly reconcile its concern for liberty and human rights with the continued abusive mistreatment of the Palestinian people, whose only crime is their desire for self-determination — the same sentiment that prompted the founding fathers of the United States and the founders of Israel a half century ago" — ADC Times.

Donald Neff

The writer has lived in the Middle East and written extensively about the region. He is the author of a trilogy about U.S. relations with Israel: "Warriors At Suez, Warriors For Jerusalem, and Warriors Against Israel."

## Diary

SCAMS, PLOTS AND LETTERS: Because we are critical of others nearly all the time, we at the Jordan Times like to be criticised too, especially when criticism is included in the form of a "letter to the editor" that everybody can read and enjoy. We received such a letter last week and prepared it for publication the next day, pending the removal of a procedural snag. After removing some expletives included in it, the letter read as follows:

"To the Editor and all board of directors of Jordan Times and staff:

All of you and all your prejudices and biased information and newsreporting!!! We here in American Club are very, very fed up for which the way and style of your daily presentation of news report offering to the reading public. Maybe just because your Jordan Times newspaper has no English newspaper competition here in Jordan. Relating to your published editorial column yesterday: "Big brotherhood friend," (Jordan Times, March 28, 1993) everytime United States of America try to mediate or express their point of view affairs view to the good benefit of the world, here in Jordan, particularly the Jordan Times newspaper has always had a negative sense of reception toward America! Enough is enough regarding of your biased reporting to the reading public! You and your newspaper should stop poisoning the wisdom of the public! Really we are not satisfied with your news reporting to the public! Focus first to the improvement of printing error in English language and spelling your newspaper had always print everyday, its a shame! Everyday there's always has wrong spellings of language in your daily newspaper. Mr. Hawat-meh you better resign in your post because you've not deserve to be a editor in chief of any English newspaper if you have a habit of always overlooking the printing error and spelling of your newspaper, newsreporting. As editor in chief of Jordan Times newspaper, you are blind (mentally blind) because you always has negative criticism ready to offer to America but you are passively tolerant from the root of all this regional conflicts and sufferings here in Middle East regarding this son of the devil Saddam Hussein and Palestinians. Good day, we are now in a democratic Jordan."

It is no problem for such a letter to have appeared in the Jordan Times, except perhaps that the writer's name needed to be verified (the procedural snag), particularly since he also worked for the "American Club" in Amman. The verification process, however, produced an upset for the mongers of criticism and self-criticism at the Times. While the writer's name and job were authentic, it was not be, but some "rivals" of his who actually wrote and sent the letter to us. "Rivals" of the letter's writer, who have their eyes on his job, were told by the U.S. embassy in Amman, wrote the letter in the hope that the Jordan Times would carry it without verifying it; the embassy would then react to its obscenity by firing him; and the "rivals" would have a better chance of landing his job. Great story for the Diary, we thought. Never mind that the "writer's" English was bad too.

★ ★ ★

ROLE, DOLE AND ALL: Our economics editor has done it again, except this time it was all about in-house matters. He recently wrote a story reporting the profits of the Jordan Press Foundation, the parent company which publishes Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times. The headline was: "Jordan Times and Al Ra'i boost pre-tax profit to JD 1.5 million." Now, whoever read that headline must have thought that the Jordan Times was the newspaper behind the company's financial success, when in fact our contribution to the overall profit of the foundation is hardly worth mentioning. Thanks to our Arabic sister's commercial performance, we still exist today. But what we mean to say is that by forgetting, or choosing to forget, to give credit where it is due, our friend and colleague, the economics editor, got us into a little trouble with Al Ra'i stalwarts. They will now have to reconsider their financial assistance to their poorer sister — meager as that assistance may be today. No serious business intended here. Luckily, however, all this happened before the board of directors wrote its annual report to the general meeting of the shareholders which took place earlier this month. That report had the following nice words to say about this little, non-profit making newspaper of ours: "And the Jordan Times, which enjoys a good reputation on the regional and international levels, has had a similar performance to that of its sister (Al Ra'i) in covering the news, analysing it and presenting a bright picture of Jordan to foreigners inside and outside Jordan. The journalistic excellence of the paper was reflected in advertising and circulation revenue which was clearly better than previous years." We were not of course consulted on the phraseology of our mission as a newspaper. But had we been, a senior editor of ours says, we would have chosen to replace the word "bright" in the text with the word "true" picture of Jordan to the world. That's all.

★ ★ ★

HOT STUFF FOR A CHANGE: Because of the uncertainty surrounding the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks on the date specified by the Americans, an unexpected administrative problem has come up. The Jordanian delegation usually stays at Willard Intercontinental Hotel while conducting negotiations with the Israelis in the U.S. capital. But this time this and other hotels may be fully booked due to a gay rights convention which will be held in Washington on and around April 20. "So far no hotel reservations could be made for the delegation, assuming the U.S. finds success in convincing all parties to go back to the peace table," says a well informed source. "But the situation is not all that hopeless yet," he adds with a smile. "If the (Clinton) administration will not intervene (again!) to find us accommodation, negotiators can always masquerade as gays." It will solve everybody's problem if gaiety permeates the negotiators' serious atmosphere, it seems.

## THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, and that is all — Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).

Never tell your resolution beforehand — John Selden, English statesman (1584-1654).

One great use of words is to hide our thoughts — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).



By Safwan Bataineh

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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## Wrong, all the way

KUWAITI Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah's statement a couple of days ago saying that his country and Saudi Arabia are not ready to normalise relations with Jordan just yet is disturbing alright, but the justification for this line of policy is even more troubling. The minister attributed his government's stance towards Jordan to the hostile Jordanian press which he described as hostile to his country. After the dust has settled on the Kuwaiti observation on the future of Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, the role of the Jordanian press in determining or shaping the Gulf foreign relations with other Arab states assumes new dimensions hitherto unnoticed.

Interwoven with this highly-charged political subject is the issue of freedom of press itself. To assume that all Jordanian dailies hold identical views on what happened in the Gulf during the crisis in 1990-1991 and on what needs to be done now is to mislead the peoples of the Arab World. It is a case of oversimplification to pretend that at this age of democracy and pluralism in this country, all Jordanian mass media outlets hold the same views with regard to Kuwait or any other countries and policies. Even more important than this point is the undisputed fact that a lot of what Jordanian dailies print on their pages today has nothing to do with official policy lines.

The other issue that the Kuwaiti foreign minister does not seem to comprehend is that this country has no muzzle media and is not about to have one for his sake. This country took a strategic decision to introduce democracy and free press knowing all too well that that decision entailed risks and even dangers that are worth taking in the struggle to plant the seeds for pluralistic democracy. It is utterly naive therefore to presume that the Jordanian press only echoes official policy or can be asked to do so. For this purpose one can cite countless situations and events where the press in this country and the government parted ways from the start. Still, out of respect for the commitment to free press, the government maintained a hand off policy not necessarily because it was happy with everything that was written or read but rather because it decided that the freedom of press had to grow through trial and error. The people of this country, as elsewhere in the world, are not born with experience in democracy and it has been recognised all along that the process of democratisation needs time to come to fruition.

Therefore, to put the Jordanian-Kuwaiti relation on the line on the pretext that the Jordanian press is hostile does not strike us as responsible. If anything, the lack of progress in restoring friendly relations between this country and some of the Gulf states is basically what is behind the seemingly hostile Jordanian press towards Kuwait in particular. The Kuwaiti authorities also need to realise that when they kicked out hundreds of thousands of our people and cut them off from their homes and livelihood for something they had nothing to do with is not exactly the kind of diplomacy that can earn friendly press commentaries. People everywhere have feelings and emotions. The press normally reflects this public sentiment that was fueled in the first place by irresponsible Kuwaiti positions. Officially and publicly, this country condemned the occupation of Kuwait and called for an immediate end to that unlawful occupation. Somehow this position got drowned by the mass hysteria that was generated against all those who did not join the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq. The Kuwaitis in particular chose what to believe and what not to believe for reasons that still elude us.

Maybe Kuwait is concerned that restoration of brotherly relations between the two countries would entail the resumption of aid. If that is what worries them, they can rest assured that Jordan can still survive without such support.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the light of King Hussein's messages to the leaders of Arab and Muslim countries and called for speedy efforts to be made to save the embattled country's Muslim people from annihilation. We call for measures to be taken to end the sufferings of the Muslim people and, in support of King Hussein's appeal, we call for an Islamic summit that can deal with the situation and confront the deceitful acts of the western countries, called the paper. We want such a summit to confront the immorality of the western nations and to defend the monotheistic religions in the face of conspiracies hatched by Israel and backed by all those claiming to be advocates of democracy, justice and human rights, said the paper. The convening of this summit cannot tolerate any delay and the curse will follow all those Muslims who fallow prove by word and deed their material, humanitarian, political and moral support for the Muslim people of the Bosnia-Herzegovina, the paper added. Unless the Muslims acted now, the fire would reach all Muslim homes while Muslim leaders busy themselves with their petty differences.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i called Sunday for the creation of a ministry for scientific research to complement the work of research being conducted by Jordanian universities and research centres. Our yearning to achieve freedom and to protect our land and national interests can only be achieved through encouraging scientific research, said Salah Jarrar. We can never achieve scientific progress except through liberating ourselves from all illusions and the deceptive concept that we are more cultured and educated than the other nations of the world, stressed the writer. It is not a secret any more that there are greedy nations and aggressors wishing to do and aiming at usurping Arab land and Arab wealth and, in attempting to do that, they are trying to deprive us of our will and our freedom, warned the writer. The shortest of for defending ourselves and in achieving scientific and industrial progress, said the writer. He said that the well-educated and skilful Arab youth should be offered the chance to put their scientific knowledge to good use and place the fruit of research at the disposal of the Arab Nation.

### Reflections

## Foul play in the fourth estate

DEMOCRACY is meant to limit the abuse of power, not to pass on the privilege of dispensing the abuse to others. Unfortunately, absolute power corrupts the formerly powerless just as easily as it does anyone else.

This might come as a cruel surprise to idealists who believe in man-made heavens on earth. But the rest of us know better. The rest of us would simply shrug their collective shoulder and fall back on worn-out clichés about having to take the bad with the good and about nobody being perfect and so forth.

The problem with the rest of us is that they are short-tempered. Since intolerance breeds intolerance and push always comes to shove, they may just decide that the familiar old ways are preferable to a newly introduced democracy whose benefits are still recognised only in the abstract.

Demonstrating the benefits of democracy to the plebeians is crucial in its maintenance if only because no one likes to get pushed around by people who dress badly. It is a little known historical fact that etiquette is the real reason behind the aristocracy's perpetual hold over the masses. The plebeians keep getting dazzled by weird accents, strange customs, and fine clothings every time they try to spell D E M O C R A S Y.

Last week, a publicity circular masquerading as a weekly newspaper broke new grounds in mud slinging. Private citizens were subjected to a filthy barrage of innuendoes and name calling without even a semblance of a pretext. This is a chilling omen of things to come. Soon private citizens may live in fear while

waiting for the sunrise to bring them the latest public thrashing. The practice of disenchanted millionaires inviting verbose scoundrels to launch hate campaigns from the pages of a periodical may become widespread. Considering available precedence, this new form of political blackmail stands a good chance of bringing to its practitioners the public honours they long coveted.

One alleged architect of democracy I know would say let the victims sue. I would not. I would rather say let them eat cake before I utter such nonsense. He would say that yellow journalism is an unavoidable by-product of democracy. I would say that nothing is unavoidable when the majority rules, not even his architectural prerogative. Why should anything be unavoidable in a structured and guided democratic process if the majority of the people does not approve of it? Or do the armchair theorists believe that their prejudices and half-baked conceptions are more valuable than the sensibilities of the fair-minded people of Jordan?

I say let us grant the judiciary true independence first before we wring our hands and feign helplessness over the excesses of democratic life. Let us introduce due process, legislate against libel and slander. Enforce the laws of the land. Complete the unmetten other attendant institutions of democracy before looking the people straight in the face and declaring yellow journalism an unavoidable paraphernalia of free speech.

And what about the credibility of the media in the early stages of the democratic process? Is it not worth preserving? How is

critical journalism supposed to flourish if people who have never known free press fail to distinguish between it and mud slinging?

A part of the solution is to set up a non-governmental board for journalistic standards on condition that it is dissolved after a predetermined period of time deemed sufficient for democracy and journalistic ethics to put down roots (we suggest a maximum of period of five years). A board of standards would be composed of veteran journalists, members of the judiciary, and others. It would be given the legal powers to set standards for the press and enforce these standards through a variety of punitive measures, including heavy fines. Two things are important here: government and government officials must have no role to play in the deliberations and actions of the board. And after the limited life of the board is over, there should be no attempt to revive it ever again under any circumstances. (If democracy doesn't put down enough roots in five years, another approach altogether may be needed). Eventually, the journalistic profession may devise some structure for self-regulation which would replace the board.

Democracy is not something that is cast in stone. Almost any system that ensures majority rule, equality of rights and opportunities and sovereignty of the laws can be considered democratic. There is no need to copy other peoples' values and prejudices. The best democracy for Jordan is that which reflects Jordanian values. It would also be the easiest to implement. When in doubt, simply walk down the street and consult the people.

### Washington

(Continued from page 1)

ried that each new round of talks is preceded by an increase in Middle East tensions as parties opposed to the peace process step up their efforts to sabotage the peace process.

By having continuous negotiations, there would be less of a focus for opposition groups to mobilise around.

The other main U.S. message was the United States would be actively involved in the substance of negotiations on a daily basis. In the past, Washington hung back, leaving the parties to try to sort out their difficulties on their own.

Israel has prepared a package of "concessions and gestures" it will unveil once the Arabs declare they will attend the talks. But these do not include the immediate return of all the expellees from South Lebanon.

### Rabin accepts land-for-peace solution

(Continued from page 1)

meeting of the Arab parties on Friday and Saturday in Damascus," referring to an Arab foreign ministers' session in the Syrian capital, he said.

Asked if Israel would make gestures to encourage the Palestinians back to the peace talks, Mr. Mubarak said: "That will be discussed when the peace negotiations start."

The two leaders, who met in a villa overlooking the Suez Canal, refused to detail why they feel the Palestinians will now return to the peace talks.

But Israeli government sources have outlined a package of concessions brokered by the United States and guaranteed by Egypt, including an improvement of human rights on the occupied territories.

Both Mr. Mubarak, who met Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Tuesday in Cairo, and Mr. Rabin said there would be no official mention of gestures from Israel until the Palestinians agreed to attend the talks.

The Israeli prime minister said they discussed how to ensure a resumption of the ninth round in Washington and also discussed "how to make sure that once they resume they will continue and will lead to results."

But Mr. Rabin made an important gesture towards the Palestinians, indicating that Israel might allow Faisal Al Hussein, the Jerusalem-based coordinator of the Palestinian peace team, to sit at the negotiating table for the first time.

This would end Israel's total refusal to negotiate with residents of East Jerusalem.

"On the issue of Faisal Al

Hussein being head of the Palestinian delegation ... once I learn the Palestinians accept that he will head the delegation I will make a statement," Mr. Rabin told the news conference.

"Then I (will) propose to the government of Israel that a member of the delegation registered in the (occupied) territories but who also has an address in Jerusalem can be a member," he said.

Mr. Rabin said: "After meeting with the president, I am much more hopeful — I stress hopeful — that the peace negotiations will be resumed."

Israel derailed its peace talks with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians last December when it expelled 415 Palestinians it accused of supporting violent Islamic groups.

"All our efforts are focused on the starting the negotiations on schedule," Mr. Mubarak said.

### Sudanese complain of discrimination

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Shaddo said that Sudan sees Islam as a way of life, adding that non-Muslims are allowed to run their lives according to their beliefs and are not governed by the Islamic laws enforced on Muslims.

And even though the civil war in Sudan erupted anew in 1983 when Mr. Numeiri introduced Sharia, Mr. Shaddo, Gen. Bashir and Sudan's Islamist strongman Hassan Al Turabi say that the war has nothing to do with Islam.

The civil war between African Christian in the south and

the Arab Muslim in the north first started in 1955 but came to a halt in 1972 when the two warring parties signed a peace treaty.

Mr. Shaddo denied that Sudan was forcing Islamic education on Christians but asserted that the country has the right to promote Arabic as the common language of Sudan's 25 million multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious population.

He said Arabic is the predominant language and culture of the land and a common

medium of communication is needed in Africa's largest country.

In its negotiations with the rebel Sudan's People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Khartoum is proposing a federal regime under which Islamic laws will not apply to Christians in the south.

These assertions, however, do little to allay the fears of Sudanese Christians who say they will never be treated like equal citizens in a country governed according to Islamic law.

"We will be a second class citizens," said the engineer who said he quit his job in the

government because of religious discrimination.

Leader of the Sudanese Communist Party Mohammed Ibrahim Nuggud also says that a religious state is by nature a discriminatory state "in which followers of other faiths will not be treated equally."

Mr. Nuggud, who is under what he called an eased house arrest, said Sudan had to become a secular state if it is to attain peace in the south and give equal treatment to all its citizens.

And even though Mr. Nuggud will not comment on whether the Khartoum regime is discriminating against Christian Sudanese, he claims that "there is no religious freedom in Sudan."

### Banks, municipality blamed

(Continued from page 1)

a dramatic rise in land prices between 1972 and 1983.

Furthermore, Mr. Mulji said the crisis in Lebanon and the resulting transfer of funds and other investments in Jordan had also contributed to the increase in prices.

National development plans, he said, also entailed appropriation of land and building infrastructure projects which gave land on added advantage for investors.

Mr. Mulji did not dwell much on the first period (1952-1967) because during this period there was no commercial demand for land and the only activities were related to ordinary needs on social or financial backgrounds.

The second period (1967-1972) was characterised by the flow of thousands of refugees or "displaced persons" from the occupied territories to, mainly, Amman and Zarqa.

As such, Mr. Mulji said, it was natural that these people began to seek housing and living resources — a situation which gave rise in gradual interest in land for first, housing needs and, secondly, for farming purposes.

After the third period (1972-1983), which saw a peak in real estate activity, Mr. Mulji said a recessionary period prevailed from 1984 to 1989.

The fourth period (1984-89) was disastrous to all those who were engaged in real estate trading because, amid the negative impact which hit most economic activities, those real estate businessmen could not meet their obligations to the banks which previously extended them credit for land trade, Mr. Mulji said.

The result, Mr. Mulji said, came in hundreds of land auctions in addition to a large volume of real estate sale announcements which created a huge supply with little demand that caused prices to

drop noticeably. "If real estate hypothecations and banks' real estate holdings (from executed auctions) are to be considered, then banks are really key players in the real estate market," he said.

To revitalise the market, the government amended the law of land registration fees in 1985 and, as shown in the table, revenues declined and the number of transaction increased until 1987.

In 1988, land and real estate prices started to pick up as revenues slightly improved while the number of transactions fell by 16 per cent.

In 1989, the trading picture became clearer as revenues jumped 37 per cent while the number of transactions rose eight per cent.

The fifth period, as designed by Mr. Mulji, was characterised by record figures in 1991 and 1992 as a result of mass return of expatriates from Arab Gulf countries.

Mr. Mulji stressed that land prices surged but the hikes were only in selective areas. He underlined that real estate prices were much influenced by unfounded personal considerations from major landlords.

Also, he pointed out, the municipality of Greater Amman contributed to the surge in land prices at certain locations by changing the building classification or expanding certain areas of a specific classification, under "sometimes" personal considerations or influences.

To ensure price stability and avoid manipulation, Mr. Mulji recommended: 1) Classifying and specifying land utilisation according to a fixed policy, away from moody considerations. 2) Fixing fees at a level that would not be too high to give opposite effect. 3) Combine all laws on land and real estate into a single comprehensive and modern

### Department of Lands and Survey

Revenues and number of transactions from 1968 until 1992

Year	Revenues (JD million)	Number of transactions
1968	0.3	44630
1969	0.4	50310
1970	0.4	43327
1971	0.6	52971
1972	1.1	56871
1973	2.2	77313
1974	2.0	64659
1975	5.4	93161
1976	9.3	108518
1977	6.0	74084
1978	9.8	86799
1979	14.4	101825
1980	17.2	117856
1981	24.4	125747
1982	26.1	125500
1983	26.2	123926
1984	26.1	126505
1985	23.9	134678
1986	20.0	150980
1987	17.1	141106
1988	17.4	137034
1989	24.0	147371
1990	24.7	175980
1991	41.8	161532
1992	53.1	177790

law. 4) Lessen bureaucratic procedures that hinder quick purchase/sale of property. 5) Coordinating efforts between the Department of Land and Survey and the Ministry of Finance to estimate property value that would be fixed and comprehensive to become a base for payment of land registration fees.

6) Stricter enforcement of the law which organises the functions of real estate offices. 7) The formation of an association for all real estate businessmen to regulate and protect the trade. 8) Publishing a real estate magazine. 9) Expand the distribution of the annual report of the De-

partment of Land and Survey to spread as much as possible the valuable statistics it contains.

Mr. Mulji also recommended an old idea of setting up of a real estate market similar to the Amman Financial Market (stock market).

He proposed as a preliminary step to set up the real estate market to establish a company whose main shareholders would be banks, which hold large volume of property. This property, according to the banking law, should not be held by banks for more than two years.

As such, he said, the real estate market would be well funded, better controlled and more organised.

### Jordan streamlines priorities

(Continued from page 1)

the talks means in fact a breakthrough on the question of Palestinian autonomy and whether the Americans will use their new role as "full partners" to achieve results this year.

Depending on how the peace process goes this time around and on a number of other issues, His Majesty King Hussein will decide on how to proceed on the internal front.

After celebrating 40 years on the throne on May 2, he will have to name a new cabinet, and maybe a new prime minister, to supervise the next parliamentary elections, whose results are crucial for continued participation in the peace process.

Any new government will also have to grapple with the issue of reconciliation with those Arab countries who did not see eye to eye with Jordan during the Gulf crisis, namely, Egypt and the Gulf countries. A reconciliation that faced good and bad prospects this week.

The positive prospect was represented by the labour conference that was held here last week, and which was attended by representatives from all Arab countries. Kuwait sent its Labour Ministry's undersecretary and Saudi Arabia the minister. But they did not meet (at least publicly) with the King or the prime minister as the others did. After the conference, however, Jordan said the Gulf would be taking Jordanian labourers again.

The negative prospect was represented by a statement by the Kuwaiti foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, saying his country and Saudi Arabia had adopted a "unified position that normalisation of relations with Jordan needs time."

While the Jordanian press hit back at the statement saying that the Kuwaitis were short-sighted and were car-

rying out "orders from others," some senior officials said it was pressure against democracy. No formal statement was issued, however, with officials preferring to speak in private in an obvious effort to play down the issue and continue to keep the door open for the Kuwaitis and Saudis to come around.

Among the immediate preoccupations of this (or the next) government is the enactment of several temporary laws seen vital to the course of the country pre- and post-elections.

One of the legislations in the pipeline is an election law, which largely incorporates a one-man-one-vote system, which, many believe, could deprive conservative groups, from Parliament. Any new election law was sure to have been rejected by the house, which held its last regular session in its 4-year term on March 31, had it been presented then.

An extraordinary session has been ruled out, and the field is now left open for the government to enact this and other temporary laws.

Another piece of law in the making will introduce a sales tax, the place of a consumption tax in another step to fulfill the conditions imposed in an economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Muslim Brotherhood is the force behind the move to grant union rights to teachers, but it may be double-edged approach since the group's rivals are arguing if the Brotherhood can push for a temporary law, they are also justified in seeking a temporary election law regardless of its implications, which, among other things, could mean a dilution of the Islamists' strength.

### Government, publishers at odds

(Continued from page 1)

Opposition to the newspaper tax came from other sources as well, but proponents of the levy prevailed when the actual decision was taken, well-informed sources said.

The government agrees that the levy will impose new burdens on newspapers, but it argues that the mainstay income of the press is in the form of advertising and, as such, publishers should increase their advertisement rates to make up for the newspaper tax without shifting the responsibility onto the readers.

But publishers counter this argument by saying that the high volume of advertisements in Jordan owes itself to low rates and that higher rates will automatically reduce the volume.

Beyond the newspaper industry, the newspaper tax will deprive Jordanian printing presses of much-needed business, experts say.

They point out that the bulk of the business of printing books could easily shift to other countries in the region such as Lebanon and say that it would still be cheaper to print in Lebanon than in Jordan despite the freight costs involved.

If the book printing business is indeed switched out significantly from Jordan, this would also lead to many printing technicians losing their jobs, exactly at a time when the Kingdom cannot afford additions to the ranks of the unemployed in the country.

On a philosophical note, critics say that any increase in the prices

of newspapers would have an adverse impact on newspaper reading among the public which in turn will lead to diminished public awareness of political, social and economic issues. They say this could be detrimental to the government as anyone else.

Another argument on the same track is that forcing newspapers to increase their prices and thereby reduce readership would be tantamount to denying the "human rights of the people to cultural awareness."

Apart from cutting down on the newspapers' profits, the newspaper tax will also adversely affect new publications which have been launched with limited budgets and circulation, the critics say.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradaneh, keeping a promise he made to the industry, recently presented a proposal to the Council of Ministers outlining a formula under which the tax system would take into consideration the "informational and cultural" value of newspapers and at the same time offer a partial reduction of the tax.

But, according to informed sources, the Cabinet voted down the proposal.

"Accusations that Mr. Jaradaneh did not live up to his promise are unfounded," said one source. "He drafted this proposal and presented it to the Cabinet, and it was not his fault that his colleagues turned it down."





**HEALTH MINISTER Aref Bataineh** Wednesday stands in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent at the opening of the 11th Jordanian Dentistry Conference organised by the Jordan Dentists Association (JDA). In an address to the meeting Dr. Bataineh said the health ministry was concerned with providing quality dentistry services to the public and was constantly promoting the level of services at its health centres. In its drive to provide services to children, the health ministry has been organising periodical dental examinations of children at schools and spreading health education. JFA President Mohammad Obaidat outlined in a speech the various functions of the three-day conference, noting that it includes panel discussions, lectures and symposiums. The minister later opened an exhibition of dental equipment, organised by Arab and foreign companies. Delegates taking part in the meetings came from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Germany and the United Kingdom in addition to Jordan.

## Abu Jaber says Jordan rejects new UNRWA measures

### Agency employees stage one-day strike, warn of further actions

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Jordan rejects any discrimination in the nature of services offered to Palestinian refugees living in the Arab host countries because the refugees' problem is the same and their basic needs are identical regardless of their present place of residence," Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said in a statement Wednesday.

Commenting on the recent announcement of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees that it plans to introduce token charges for its services in Jordan to help it meet its commitments, the minister said "any pretexts about financial difficulties can convince no-one."

"UNRWA can find effective means of covering the deficit in its budget without resorting to a reduction in services to the refugees," Dr. Abu Jaber said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said the Jordanian government has been following reports at the highest level on the agency's intention to reduce its services to the Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

The minister said Jordan had borne heavy burdens as a result of UNRWA's previous reductions in services, and the country cannot shoulder additional burdens at a time when it is facing the consequences caused by the return to Jordan of hundreds of thousands of expatriates as a result of the Gulf crisis.

On April 11 UNRWA said it would start levying token charges for health services and part of education services it offers to the refugees in Jordan as of July 1993.

Dennis Brown, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, said the move was aimed at addressing the estimated \$28.5 million deficit in the agency's \$300 million budget for this year.

Dr. Abu Jaber urged the world community to shoulder its responsibilities towards the Palestinian refugees, particularly at this time when the peace process is undergoing a crucial stage.

The foreign minister warned against any change in UNRWA's mandate, adding that the Jordanian government was conducting intensive contacts with the concerned Arab and international parties over this issue.

Dr. Abu Jaber's statement coincided Wednesday with a one-day strike by the agency's employees to press demands for improved work conditions and better pay.

The estimated 5,670 strikers were also protesting against the agency's rejection of salary increases this year and the levying of token fees from health and education sectors in Jordan.

"The strike is an expression of anger at UNRWA's decision not to grant us a JD 15 monthly salary

increase this year as well as its plans to charge Palestinian refugees here for health and educational services," Marina Hindeleh, a senior UNRWA administrative officer told the Associated Press (AP) Wednesday.

She warned that the strike would be followed by further unspecified actions if the agency did not respond to the demands of its 6,000 Jordan-based employees.

Voicing the concerns of her colleagues, Ms. Hindeleh said the agency's decision to levy fees from refugees was "politically motivated."

"It is not a budget problem as the agency claims," she said. "We believe that the agency is planning to hand over its activities to the governments in Jordan and Syria."

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that all the workers employed by UNRWA, including

teachers stayed away from work Wednesday and UNRWA schools remained closed.

According to AP, Mr. Brown said Wednesday's strike forced the closure of 201 schools attended by more than 152,000 Palestinian students as well as 20 clinics visited by at least 6,000 patients a day.

"Since they are not getting a positive response to this one (the protest action), I am expecting that there will be other actions, but what these are and in what form they could be I do not know," Mr. Brown told Reuters and other reporters at the largely empty UNRWA headquarters.

He confirmed that UNRWA will go ahead with plans to make refugees in Jordan pay the token fees.

The same move is expected in Syria next January.

The fees would raise some \$2 million, with the bulk coming

from Jordan, home to over half the 2.6 million U.N. registered refugees displaced after the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars.

Meanwhile, Jordan announced that it will take part in a meeting by donor countries to UNRWA, to be held in Vienna next month, to discuss the agency's annual budget.

Jordan's delegate to the meeting, Adel Irsheid, said the subject of deficit and the agency's recent measures will be among the topics discussed at the meeting, which will be attended by representatives of donor nations and governments of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Irsheid who is also head of the foreign ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, said the meeting will also discuss the situation in the Israeli occupied Arab lands and the question of improving the standard of services to refugees.

## JTV to offer up to 6 new foreign channels

By Samir Barhoum  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Residents of Amman will be able to watch up to six foreign television channels in their homes within four months without the need to purchase a satellite dish.

This will be made possible when Jordan Television (JTV), in cooperation with the Jordanian Cinema and Television Production Company (JCTPC), begins to broadcast over six new channels, including the American CNN (Cable News Network), in the Amman vicinity.

Director of JCTPC Jawad Maraga said his company was about to sign a deal with a foreign firm to install the encoding/decoding equipment.

As soon as the equipment is installed, maybe within a three-month period, the company will announce the subscription rates, said Mr. Maraga.

He declined to give any figures about the subscription fees, but it is expected that the monthly subscription would cost JD20-30.

After this three-month period, he said, the company will start distributing the special antennae and decoders to subscribers so that the service would start within less than four months.

Mr. Maraga said in the initial

stages, the service would only cover the Amman vicinity, and in later stages the project might expand to include other Jordanian cities, mainly the Kingdom's second and third largest cities, Irbid and Zarqa.

Mr. Maraga said the project, which was supposed to materialise by the end of 1992, was delayed because of the geographic nature of Amman which poses some difficulties.

The hilly areas in Amman posed another impediment to JTV and the company, according to Director of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Radi Alkhas.

He said Jordan Television was planning to have a larger number of channels, but again, Amman's geographic nature made it difficult to achieve that.

In other areas such as Irbid or Zarqa, the number of channels can be raised to about 20, Mr. Alkhas said.

He said preliminary studies predicted that the number of subscribers in the Amman region would reach 6,000 in the initial stages of the project.

In later stages, he said he expected the service to attract more subscribers.

Mr. Alkhas said JTV has

already reached an agreement with CNN to broadcast its programmes.

He said JTV is still negotiating with other television networks, such as the BBC (the British Broadcasting Corporation).

"The problem with the BBC is that they want us to broadcast their international television service, while we are determined to offer their European service," he said.

In addition, Mr. Alkhas said, "we will be broadcasting other sports and entertainment channels."

"These will also include special programmes for children besides the documentary and feature films and other entertainment programmes. Furthermore, we are planning to have a discovery channel."

Mr. Alkhas said there will be no censorship on the service's programmes, but rather the television station will be careful in selecting channels "whose programmes do not contradict our norms and traditions."

Concerning the Package-Turner channel, which will include a combination of programmes gathered from various television stations, the JTV will not be receiving it via satellites, and is

still negotiating terms of an agreement on this channel with a commercial firm, he said.

"We plan for this package to have children's programmes in the early hours of the day, and songs, films and other programmes in the later parts of the day," he said.

Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif affirmed that there will be no form of direct censorship on the service, reiterating the commitment of the government and Jordan Television to selecting channels that do not air programmes contrary to public sentiments in Jordan.

Mr. Sharif said the idea to have this kind of service was, in the first place, the brainchild of the ministry which forwarded the idea to the Cabinet and secured its approval.

He said JTV will be responsible for the project as a whole, and the JCTPC will act as distributor of the service.

Jordan Television will be receiving and transmitting the channels, and the JCTPC's role will be to market the services.

"It will be the sole distributor of the service and will be operating as an intermediary between JTV and the public," Mr. Sharif explained.

## Minister points to timely significance of European Broadcasting Union meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Mahmoud Sharif told the opening meeting of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) in Amman Wednesday that Jordan was ready to cooperate with the EBU in joint informational programmes to enhance common objectives and bolster understanding among nations.

Joint programme production among European and Mediterranean countries is a main topic of the three-day meeting of the EBU's Programmes Committee.

Underlining the importance of television media as a tool for disseminating culture and promoting co-existence among nations and religions, the minister said Jordan hopes to see the EBU involved in a joint programme that would reflect the true picture of Arabs and Muslims.

Mr. Sharif added that presenting the real picture now is even more important because of the recent attempts on the part of hostile media to distort the image of Arabs and Muslims, describing them as terrorist and barbarians bent on violence and destruction.

There are certain forces that are at present trying to substitute Communism with Arabism and

portraying Islam as the enemy of the West, now that Communism has collapsed, the minister said.

In thanking the EBU committee for choosing Amman in which to hold its 63rd meeting, Mr. Sharif said the meeting served as a strong indication of the growing relationship between EBU and Jordan.

"You are meeting at a time when the Kingdom is undergoing a real and important change, as democracy is dominating all

aspects of life in the country, the minister said.

He referred to the free elections of 1989, the creation of political parties and the new law on press and publications as guarantees of the freedom of the press.

Mr. Sharif said the press, radio and television have become a forum for public debate and are considered important tools for socio-political change in Jordan.

He announced that His Majesty King Hussein will formally open the satellite channel on April 27, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of Jordan Television. Jordan, along with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon, is a member of the EBU, which was founded in 1950.

Based in Switzerland, the EBU supports the interests of members and assists in the development of broadcasting in all its forms.



Public security officials of seven countries attend a three-day meeting, which ended Wednesday in Amman, on cooperation in combating crime and protecting society (Petra photo)

## International security meetings end

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates representing the public security services in Jordan and Arab and foreign countries Wednesday ended a three-day meeting in Amman during which they discussed various types of police work and cooperation in security matters.

Organised by the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States, the meeting was attended by delegates from Jordan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Lebanon, Germany, Australia and the United States.

The officials reviewed several working papers focusing on the experiments of the participating security services, and listened to lectures on means of ensuring security, stability and public protection.

The delegates also discussed means of promoting cooperation and coordination among their

countries in combating crime.

Addressing the participants at the final session, PSD Director Abdul Rahman Al Udwan underlined the need for the security services of various nations to cooperate closely in their endeavour to protect their societies against crime.

The seminar was the second of its kind to be organised by the PSD in cooperation with the FBI in Amman.

meeting reviewing the development of the Egyptian private sector over the last few years resulting from the changes in laws which encourage foreign investments in Egypt.

In referring to the 1967 Trade Protocol, the ambassador said that over the years, that protocol was continually upgraded through trade agreements, including one signed in 1990 on the annual exchange of \$60 million worth of products.

Mamdouh Abu Hassan, president of the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA), referred in a speech to Jordan's hosting of tens of thousands of Egyptian workers, because Jordan, he said, believes that Arab countries belong to one nation.

But, he said, the two sides should further develop their economic and trade links in a more equitable manner.

The council is due to discuss trade and economic links and ways to promote Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in tourism, industry, the contracting business and transport

## Ensurur urges balanced trade between Jordan and Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour told a meeting of the Council of Jordanian and Egyptian Businessmen here Wednesday, that Amman and Cairo have succeeded in maintaining economic cooperation over the last three years despite the turbulence in Arab countries' relations; but trade imbalances between the two sides still need to be addressed, he added.

The meeting, following a break of four years, is a clear indication of the two countries' determination to promote trade links regardless of the political upheavals in inter-Arab relations in the past three years, the minister said.

In an address at the opening session, Dr. Ensour said Jordan's imports of Egyptian national products rose from JD 9 million in 1988 to JD 26 million in the first 10 months of 1992.

But Jordan's exports declined during this period, and dropped to JD 3 million in the first 10 months of 1993, down from JD 7 million in 1988, the minister said.

This is an imbalance in the

trade transactions between the two countries which must be addressed, Dr. Ensour urged.

Following a suspension of two years, the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee met in Cairo last year and approved a trade agreement that substituted the 1967 Trade Protocol and opened the way for import, export activities, the minister said, adding that the joint committee has provided for increased trade exchange of agricultural and industrial products and for facilitating the flow of transit goods between Jordan and Egypt.

In addition, certain national Egyptian and Jordanian products have been exempt from customs duty, especially those used in trade exhibitions, Dr. Ensour explained.

At present the two countries are studying lists of national products which will be exempt from duty, and a final version will be ready for approval in the coming few days, the minister announced.

Egypt's Ambassador to Jordan, Wajih Hamdi, addressed the

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suba Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Re-creation" by Jordanian, French and Iraqi artists, inspired by a sculpture by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Abdullah, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Luqman Al Aseel at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of books and educational facilities at the International Expo Centre.

### FILMS

- ★ Arabic film entitled "Al Manam" (The Sleep) at 8 p.m. at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (proceeds of the showing will benefit the Palestinian uprising).
- ★ Feature film entitled "Coal Miner's Daughter" at 5 p.m. at the American Centre (PG rated — 125 min.).

Under the Patronage of HE The Minister of Culture Dr Mahmoud Al-Samra

The British Council and the Ministry of Culture present

the right size

Flight to Finland

The Right Size have an international reputation for making people laugh. Their supremely visual style is motivated by clowns as diverse as Laurel and Hardy, Jacques Tati and Eric Morecombe. They create a comic world of slapstick, acrobatics, music, dancing and very few words.

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THE GUARDIAN

Royal Cultural Centre Main Theatre Tuesday April 20th, Wednesday April 21st. 8pm.

Tickets JD 5 from British Council, Tel 636147/8 Royal Cultural Centre, Tel 661026

The British Council

# MAP

يانصيب

الجمعية الأردنية للمون الطبي للفلسطينيين

الجائزة الكبرى

سيارة من ابيدال 1.8 190E بمحرك 1194

تذكرة JD 5

بالتعاون مع

المنتدى

FORUM FURNITURE

★ Other prizes  
★ Drawing the lots will take place May 12, 1993 and results will be announced in the local press  
★ For information, please call tel. 61106

TICKETS ARE SOLD AT

<p>AMMAN:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safeway</li> <li>2. Al Rainbow Star - 1st Circle</li> <li>3. George Sahliyah Electric Shop - Jabal Amman - Mutran Street</li> <li>4. The Flowers Club - Jabal Amman - Astra building</li> <li>5. Flowers Club - Al Fareed Complex - Al Abdali</li> <li>6. Burqan for handicrafts - 2nd Circle</li> <li>7. Bonita Restaurant - Second Circle</li> <li>8. Firas Bookshop - 3rd Circle</li> <li>9. Fayez Beauty Shop - Umm Uthaina - near San Rock Hotel</li> <li>10. Sweet Supermarket - Umm Uthaina</li> <li>11. Kishkek Jewellery - Umm Uthaina</li> <li>12. Antoina Beauty Shop - 5th Circle</li> <li>13. Al Khoulfi Pharmacy - 6th Circle</li> <li>14. Rwand Pharmacy - Wadi Sagra</li> <li>15. Firas Pharmacy - Jabal Al</li> </ol>	<p>Hussein</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. The Interior Circle Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein</li> <li>17. Al Hussein Camp Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein</li> <li>18. Malak Pharmacy - Al Wihdat</li> <li>19. Al Wihdat Pharmacy - the Club Street - Al Wihdat</li> <li>20. Abu Sharif Pharmacy - Al Ashrafieh</li> <li>21. Milano Pharmacy - Gardens Street</li> <li>22. Basma pharmacy - Gardens Street</li> <li>23. Al Alia Pharmacy - Gardens Street</li> <li>24. Sakhaa Pharmacy - Gardens Street</li> <li>25. Al Makiabeh Bookshop - Gardens Street</li> <li>26. University Bookshop - Gardens Street</li> <li>27. Jamal Pharmacy - Al Jubeiha</li> <li>28. Al Abdali Pharmacy - Al Abdali</li> <li>29. Al shadfan Pharmacy - the Sports City</li> <li>30. The Great Arab Pharmacy - King Faisal Street</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. Babish - Shmeisani</li> <li>32. Rajaa Pharmacy - Shmeisani</li> <li>33. The Jordan Clothing Company (CJC) - the Housing Bank Complex - Shmeisani</li> <li>34. The Jordan Clothing Company (CJC) - Al Salt Street</li> <li>35. The Jordan Clothing Company (CJC) - Sweifiyah</li> <li>36. Ghassan Jewellery - Tawliq Khouri - Al Sweifiyah</li> <li>37. Eastern Tours Co - Jabal Luweibdeh</li> <li>38. The University Bookshop - Jabal Luweibdeh</li> </ol> <p>ZARQA:</p> <p>The Modern Zarqa Pharmacy</p> <p>IRBID:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Al Saadoun Pharmacy</li> <li>2. Al Shuqairi Pharmacy - Yarmouk University Street</li> <li>3. Al Haitham Pharmacy - Irbid Refugee Camp</li> </ol> <p>AQABA:</p> <p>Aqaba Pharmacy</p>
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## Sounds of silence

By Jean-Claude Elias

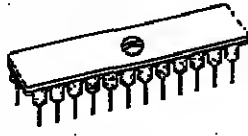
Computers are getting more powerful by the day. Among all known scientific and technical fields, computer science, followed by medicine, has the fastest rate of development, improvement and innovation. Personal computing, now affordable to most households, has reached limits that were unthinkable for large corporations only ten years ago. Mass storage, memory and processing power, combined with efficient software — programmes — are being improved at an amazing pace. Yet, for an obscure reason, computer manufacturers seem to ignore, or to be unable to tackle a very important aspect of the personal computer: The machine's noise level.

The computer is not generally considered as a "moving machine" like a car, a dishwasher or a typewriter. It has, however some moving parts, though few of them. Inside a PC's (personal computer) cabinet, noise is generated by the main fan, which helps evacuate the heat produced by the electronic circuits and the power supply, and by the hard disk's motor. Floppy disk drives produce noise only when they are activated, which represents less than five per cent of the working time, while hard disks, in permanent rotation, generate a substantial noise.

Noise level is expressed in decibels which is a relative and not an absolute value. It has a meaning only when compared to other values. How acceptable a PC's noise level is really depends on the working environment. In a crowded office, with wall-to-wall carpeting, ringing telephones and busy photocopyers, chances are that the computer's noise won't even be heard. Compared to a standard dotmatrix printer in operation, the PC is an extremely silent device. The problem shows its real dimension in a quiet room or office, more particularly for someone working long hours at night.

Anyone who has switched off his home PC well after midnight, when everybody at home is sound asleep, and

### chip talk



after a long working session on the computer, knows how good it feels to have this noise shut up. The constant and annoying hum of the machine is an extremely unpleasant phenomenon that can not only produce a serious headache but also reduces the operator's ability to concentrate.

Although never systematically addressed, the problem's importance varies from one computer brand to another. It is certain that reputable manufacturers make fans and disk motors that generate less noise than others. The machine's cabinet or casing also contributes to reducing or, on the contrary, to increasing the noise level. With the incredible progress in chips and processor manufacturing, one wonders if the industry couldn't easily come up with an efficient and elegant solution.

For all home users who do difficult night work in their house, like writers, scientists or music composers, having a silent machine is a key issue. For most of them, the quality of their production is at stake. I know some writers who have given up using their PC to write their stories and find it easier to concentrate and stimulate their creativity with a pen and paper. In times where sound pollution in the street, in the office and at the factory, has attracted the attention of environmentalists, it would only be fair to tackle the PC's noise problem. The new "low radiation" screens/monitors are soft and gentle to the eye, why not have fans and disk drives that are nice and easy to the ear?

## The battle of the car

By E. Yaghi

Whenever my adversary leaves her broom at home for one reason or another, she and I then meet on the street and begin the battle of getting a taxi. At first, I had a certain territory almost staked out for myself, and then she began to appear as if from nowhere and defiantly compete with me for a ride. I don't know what's wrong with me anyway, for lately, I can't seem to get out of the house before 7:15 in the morning. At least a few weeks ago, I would leave at 7:10 and not only find a ride, but avoid her. I guess that around 7 and thereafter, the morning rush hour (or should I say mad hour?) begins and people from all walks of life battle each other for a means of transportation.

The first time we met, I was already on the street waiting for a taxi when she, "the living nightmare," stomped up to me and demanded with snapping eyes and a fierce look, "good morning! Which way are you going?"

Immediately, before answering, I thought, oh my, her poor husband! If he says one wrong word, she'll think nothing of bashing him over the head with her rolling pin, but instead I hesitated slightly before answering, "I'm heading towards the university."

"Humph," she retorted, "I'm going downtown. If we were heading the same way, we could go together," and turned around without any further comment and commenced from that day after to try to flag down a cab before me.

For my own part, I thankfully breathed a sigh of relief imagining what it would be like to have to ride with that vicious woman five days a week. Ever since our first and only conversation, whenever we do see each other, nightmare stares right through me as if I'm invisible and marches past me to flag the same cab that I would have stopped if she hadn't taken my place and turn. I discovered there is no courtesy whatsoever when trying to get to one's destination. There is no practice of the long lost proverb "first come, first served," or respect for the elderly, or even when a woman is in line before a man, if he can get away with it, he will crowd in front of her and take her place. Where is chivalry? The other day, two females stopped a cab and five men rushed ahead of them and climbed into it before the girls knew what had happened. I heard them complaining to each other, "we were here first and the driver pulled over for us. Why did they take our taxi?"

And too, men are even ruder to each other. Not too long ago, some were waiting for a service taxi. Five jumped in and the car started to move when suddenly, a sixth man jerked open the back door, grabbed a passenger by his collar and yanked him out of the vehicle. "Hey, what did

you do that for, are you crazy?" the victim screamed in protest.

"Just shut up and get out of my way," his oppressor yelled, "or I'll give you something to complain about." "Oh, is that so!" the pulled out passenger hollered and they began to hit each other while a group of spectators gathered around and tried to separate them from each other. As for the cab, well, it took off like a flash of lightning, neglecting to take either of the contestants.

Anyway, back to my own problems. I guess I too have sunk to the means of trying to defeat and outwit my opponent. Even if nightmare follows me, I try to walk further away from her hoping to avoid any sort of ill feelings, but she persists in trailing after me and getting the cab I planned to take before I do. Her belligerent actions have almost made me desperate and I have all too willingly joined in the battle for transportation. Usually, nightmare defeats me, hurrying past to flag down a car on which occasions, I mutter to the passing storm, "I hope he doesn't stop for you and I hope you don't find a ride at all!"

But she does and my words backfire and I'm the one who is usually late while she smiles a wicked smile of savory victory as she speeds past and the dust of the wheels settles on my face and pride.

So far, only on two occasions have I won the battle of the car. Both times, even though I triumphantly smirked past her, I was later rather disappointed, such as the incident when the driver not only crooned to himself and thumped his steering like it was a drum, but stopped and picked up three more passengers as if he operated a bus and not a cab and let us all pay the same fare as we normally would have if each had ridden alone. I, for one, do not appreciate drivers who do this but when I protest, I am instantly reprimanded: "Why? What's it to you?"

Tomorrow's another day of battle. If lucky, I will leave the house before she does, knowing my staked out territory is no longer my own. The streets are full of the desperate masses who jump at any chance for transportation, many taxi drivers are too self-important to stop for anyone and I have come to the conclusion that chivalry is nearly dead and almost beyond hope of revival. In the meantime, she has apparently lost her broom (or it has had a nervous breakdown) and therefore is my permanent foe in the early morning mad hour when normally sane people do the strangest things and turn into monsters, werewolves and certainly not fairy godmothers. Wherever is that gallant knight in shining armour, Gloom Buster? Is he taking a holiday? Has he forgotten me? Couldn't he just zap her with his laser and turn her into something really human from the menacing fire-breathing dragon who cackles when it laughs?

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 15

8:30 Zorro

Water

Zorro helps the people to get the water back to their land.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Double Indentury

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Trouble With Spies

Starring: Donald Sutherland and Ruth Gordon.

Friday, April 16

8:30 Billy

Gimme Some Credit

9:10 E.N.G.

Up On The Roof

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner

Saturday, April 17

8:30 Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes

9:00 Perspective

A local talk show prepared and presented by Mureed Hammad.

9:30 Saturday Variety Show

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Willing To Kill

This is a true story about a mother who is obsessed by the idea of making her daughter take part in the cheerleaders squad. But her daughter's continuous failure gives the mother the idea to get rid of the rival. The story is based on court records and official public interviews.

Sunday, April 18

8:30 Executive Stress

A party is held in memory of an old founder of a publishing house. On that occasion Donald is chosen to deliver a speech.

9:10 Documentary — Hellstorm Chronicle

This episode talks about the insects who will one day inherit the earth after everything becomes extinct.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Voltaire

Voltaire receives an invitation from King Frederick to visit Germany, but Emily, Voltaire's friend, opposes this visit.

Monday, April 19

8:30 The Powers That Be

The senator's daughter complains about her boring life.

9:00 Laurel And Hardy

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Street Justice

An assassination attempt is made on the life of Adam by killers believed to be related to a Vietnamese group.

Tuesday, April 20

8:30 Beadies About

9:10 Forever Green

Harriette suspects her daughter of having a crush on her teacher in spite of the innocent appearances she inspires to try not to show her admiration.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Classical Feature Film

Wednesday, April 21

8:30 Chance in a Million

Tom and his fiancée, Allison, visit her parents in the countryside to spend the weekend.

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 Documentary — Voyager

This episode discusses the major earthquakes that hit the U.S., Japan, China, and Mexico and the impact left on those areas.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, April 15

1923 — Insulin, discovered by Canadian Dr. Frederick Banting, is made available for general use by diabetics.

1942 — Japanese artillery blasts U.S. positions on Corregidor in Philippines in World War II.

1968 — Two unmanned Soviet Sputniks link up while in orbit around Earth.

1982 — Five militant Muslim fundamentalists are executed in Egypt as assassins of President Anwar Sadat.

1987 — Philippines-flag vessel sailing to Kuwait while in orbit around Earth.

1989 — Ninety-four people are killed when stadium fence collapses under crush of crowd at packed soccer match in Sheffield, England.

1992 — Sanctions go into effect against Libya for refusing to surrender two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

Friday, April 16

1906 — Pacific cable between United States and China is completed.

1917 — Nikolai Lenin returns to Russia from exile.

1945 — U.S. troops enter Juremberg, Germany, in World War II.

1972 — U.S. Apollo 16 astronauts are launched toward moon from Cape Kennedy, Florida.

1975 — Cambodian gov-

ernment in Phnom Penh asks for truce and offers to yield to Communist forces sweeping into city.

1988 — Commando unit kills Palestine Liberation Organisation military commander in Tunis.

1992 — President Najibullah, stripped of power, is stopped trying to flee the country.

Saturday, April 17

1492 — Ferdinand of Spain agrees to finance Christopher Columbus' voyage of discovery.

1521 — Martin Luther, critical of Roman Catholic Church, appears before Diet of Worms and is cross-examined by papal nuncio, Cardinal Alexander.

1895 — China and Japan, by Treaty of Shimonoseki, recognise independence of Korea; China opens seven new ports and cedes Formosa, Port Arthur and the Liao Tung peninsula to Japan.

1943 — U.S. bombers attack Palermo, Sicily, in World War II.

1961 — Cuba is invaded at "Bay Of Pigs" by rebel forces which are defeated by Fidel Castro.

1968 — U.S. protection for non-Communist Asia is pledged at meeting in Honolulu between U.S. President Lyndon Johnson and South Korea's President Chung Hee Park.

1971 — Egypt, Syria and Libya sign agreement to confederate.

1973 — Cambodia's Presi-

dent Lon Nol announces resignation of his cabinet and appeals to all political groups to take part in council to solve nation's problems.

1975 — Communists take over rule of Cambodia's capital of Phnom Penh as Cambodian war draws to end.

Sunday, April 18

1906 — Earthquake rocks San Francisco, California, touching off fires that almost destroy city, and about 700 people perish.

1912 — Turkey announces closure of Dardanelles Straits to shipping.

1942 — U.S. bombers led by Lieutenant General James Doolittle attack Tokyo and other Japanese cities in World War II.

1949 — Republic of Eire is formally proclaimed in Dublin.

1957 — Representatives of Burma, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan and Syria attend first meeting in New Delhi of Asian Legal Consultative Committee.

1976 — About 40,000 Israelis march into occupied West Bank area of Jordan, demanding that Israel annex the territory.

1986 — Angry crowds form outside American embassies throughout world as backlash continues against U.S. attack on Libya.

1988 — U.S. Navy destroys two offshore Iranian oil platforms, bombs two Iranian Navy frigates in retaliation for mine explosion that damages U.S. frigate.

1991 — Sudanese government announces a plan for moving 800,000 displaced people out of Khartoum and each to their home regions in south, west and east of the country.

Monday, April 19

1775 — War of American Independence opens with defeat of British at Lexington and Concord.

1783 — U.S. Congress announces end of War of American Independence.

1928 — Japan occupies Shandong in China.

1988 — Court in Duesseldorf convicts Abbas Hamadi of involvement in 1987 kidnapping of two west Germans in Beirut, Lebanon.

1989 — Riots erupt in Jordan against government-imposed price increases.

Tuesday, April 20

1923 — Egyptian constitution is adopted.

1945 — Soviet forces penetrate Berlin defences in World War II.

1957 — United States resumes aid to Israel; Japan protests to Soviet Union over nuclear tests.

1970 — President Richard Nixon announces withdrawal of 150,000 U.S. military personnel from South Vietnam.

1987 — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat calls for sovereign Palestinian state "with Jerusalem as its capital."

1991 — Sudanese government announces a plan for moving 800,000 displaced people out of Khartoum and each to their home regions in south, west and east of the country.

By The Associated Press

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### HUMOROUS QUOTATIONS

The Press

— I keep reading between the lies!

— He had been kicked in the head by a mule when young, and believed everything he read in the Sunday papers.

— Newspapers are the schoolmasters of the common people. That endless book, the newspaper, is our national glory.

— Journalists say a thing that they know is not true, in the hope that if they keep on saying it long enough it will be true.

— What is the newspaper but a sponge or invention for oblivion?

★ ★ ★

### LET'S SAY IT IN ARABIC

The Customs

— I'd to check in for the flight to London.

Ayez antahi min ijra'at el-wazn wil-jomrok lir-rihla el-muttajihla ila London.

— Fine. Do you have your ticket and passport?

Na'am. Ma'ak et-tazkara wa-jawaz es-safar?

— Yes, here you are. Na'am, tafaddal.

— Would you please put your luggage on the scales?

Momkin tohot el-shonah ala al-mizan?

— OK, sir. Na'am, sayyedi.

— Have you anything else? Ma'ak baja tania?

— I've one carton of cigarettes. Ma'aya cartoonet sagayer.

— These are gifts and other things for my personal use.

Hadi badaya wa'ashya' okhra lil-istinal el-shakhsi.

— Is this a new camera? El-kamera hadi jadeeda?

— It isn't new. Do I have to pay duty?

Moosh jadeeda. Lazem adfa jomrok?

— No, but I'll register it on your passport.

La, bass rayeh assajilha fee jawaz es-safar.

★ ★ ★

### STRANGE BUT TRUE

THE SKIN of a hippopotamus is two inches thick in some places.

IT CANNOT be proved by the Bible that Jesus Christ ever smiled.

IN THE UNITED STATES the railroad station bearing the shortest name is Uz in Kentucky.

A BIRD requires more food in proportion to its size than a baby or a cat.

THE RECORD high jump for a flea is seven inches.

THE NOSE of the Statue of Liberty measures four feet, six inches.

★ ★ ★

### RIPPLES

TEACHER: "What comes after 'G'?"

STUDENT: "Whiz."

TEACHER: "What comes after 'O'?"

STUDENT: "Dear."

TEACHER: (Fed up) "This is your last chance. What comes after 'T'?"

STUDENT: "Supper!"

★ ★ ★

A WORKER who was one dinar short in his pay envelope complained to the cashier. She looked at the records and said, "Last month we overpaid you by one dinar. You didn't complain about the mistake, did you?"

"An occasional mistake I can overlook," said the worker. "But not two in a row."

★ ★ ★

CRAIG had a coin caught in his throat and his mother ran into the street for help.

A man passing by caught the lad firmly and with efficient taps on his back made him cough it up.

"God bless you, sir," said the grateful mother. "You're a great doctor, aren't you?"

"I'm not a doctor," said the man. "I'm A TAX COLLECTOR!"

★ ★ ★

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In Egyptian mythology, what is a BACCHIS?
2. What are BAD DEBTS?
3. How did the Black Sea get its name?
4. What do the following have in common: sterlet, molossal, osetiova, payusnaya, and beluga?
5. What do the initials AWACS stand for?
6. Who was divorced by Julius Caesar?
7. Which Greek author was killed when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his head?
8. What are called the Devil's Books?

★ ★ ★

### HAPPY DREAMS

CASHIER: Financial worries are apt to follow a dream in which you met with, or acted in the capacity of, a cashier. Guard your credit.

CHEQUE: Another dream of contrary. The more and the larger were the cheques you signed in your dream, the greater will be your money luck in the near future. However, the reverse is true if you received payment by cheque in your dream; you are being warned to be extra cautious in current transactions.

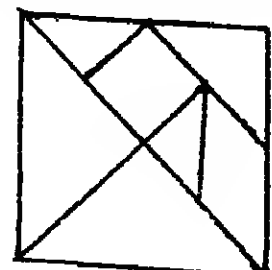
BANK: A rather straightforward dream. An empty bank signifies losses. Tellers paying out money is a warning against carelessness in business matters, unless you were yourself receiving or depositing funds, in which case you can expect some form of money luck.

BANKRUPT: A dream of contrary if it involved your own bankruptcy; you will prosper. But a dream of bankruptcy involving others is a warning not to use shady methods in business and to avoid those who do.

★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

TANGRAMS, which are Chinese in origin, are flat shapes made of wood or card (even paper will do) which offer a variety of intriguing puzzles. Here below are the seven basic shapes:



Can you arrange them to form this letter, "E"?



# Legend Of Petra II highlights harmonious merger of nature and man

By Stephanie Genkin

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN—Throughout this century, the mystic of Petra has captured the imagination of historians, archeologists and artists. Fascinated by the ancient Nabatean city, a treasure of endless exploration, many have attempted to trace and uncover the history of the site.

The current exhibition featuring the work of Suha Shoman at the National Gallery of Fine Arts offers a unique approach to the wonders of the "Rose City". Instead of searching for the past, she seeks to uncover the essence of Petra. Mrs. Shoman's abstract paintings concentrate on the contour and tones of the brilliantly coloured stones.

"The exhibition is based on what I see in Petra," Mrs. Shoman said. "As an artist, I try to make others see Petra from a new angle," she explained. Every painter who approaches Petra will see something else, she added.

In the collection entitled Legend Of Petra II, individual paintings focus on the

layers of time. Several of these works are fit together to produce a much bigger picture. The largest series featured in the collection is made up of 21 paintings, each revealing the colours and tones of the Petra stone during different times of the day.

Mrs. Shoman, born in Jerusalem in 1944, began her study of Petra 7 years ago. In 1988 she exhibited her first work on Petra at the Royal Cultural Centre. Legend Of Petra I offered an overall impression of the region, focusing on the Nabatean structures.

## ART REVIEW

Fascinated by the organic quality of the region, Mrs. Shoman's current exhibition explores the natural wonders of Petra.

"This exhibition focuses on 2 things: The effect of the nature on the rocks of Petra and the imprint of man on the rock," Mrs. Shoman said.

Several of her works portray ancient inscriptions found on the stones of Petra, as well as the images of hunters and other depictions. According to Mrs. Shoman,

Petra exemplifies the merger of nature and man in total harmony.

Mrs. Shoman elaborates on this theme through the use of "installation works", an artistic technique designed to give a three-dimensional quality to an exhibition. Petra sand, coloured stones and bones found on the site are incorporated into the exhibition. The arrangement of natural artefacts in the corners of the gallery serves to bind space and recreate an environment.

While this technique has been used by American and European artists since the 1960s, it is new to Arab artists. Mrs. Shoman is the first Jordanian artist to incorporate installation works in an exhibition.

Also working with an innovation in mixed media, Mrs. Shoman paints with acrylic, oil and Petra sand. A close look at the surface of the canvas will reveal the gritty multi-coloured sand characteristic of the region. For Mrs. Shoman, sand is more than a material. It is a symbol.

"Man in the universe is like

a grain of sand," she explained.

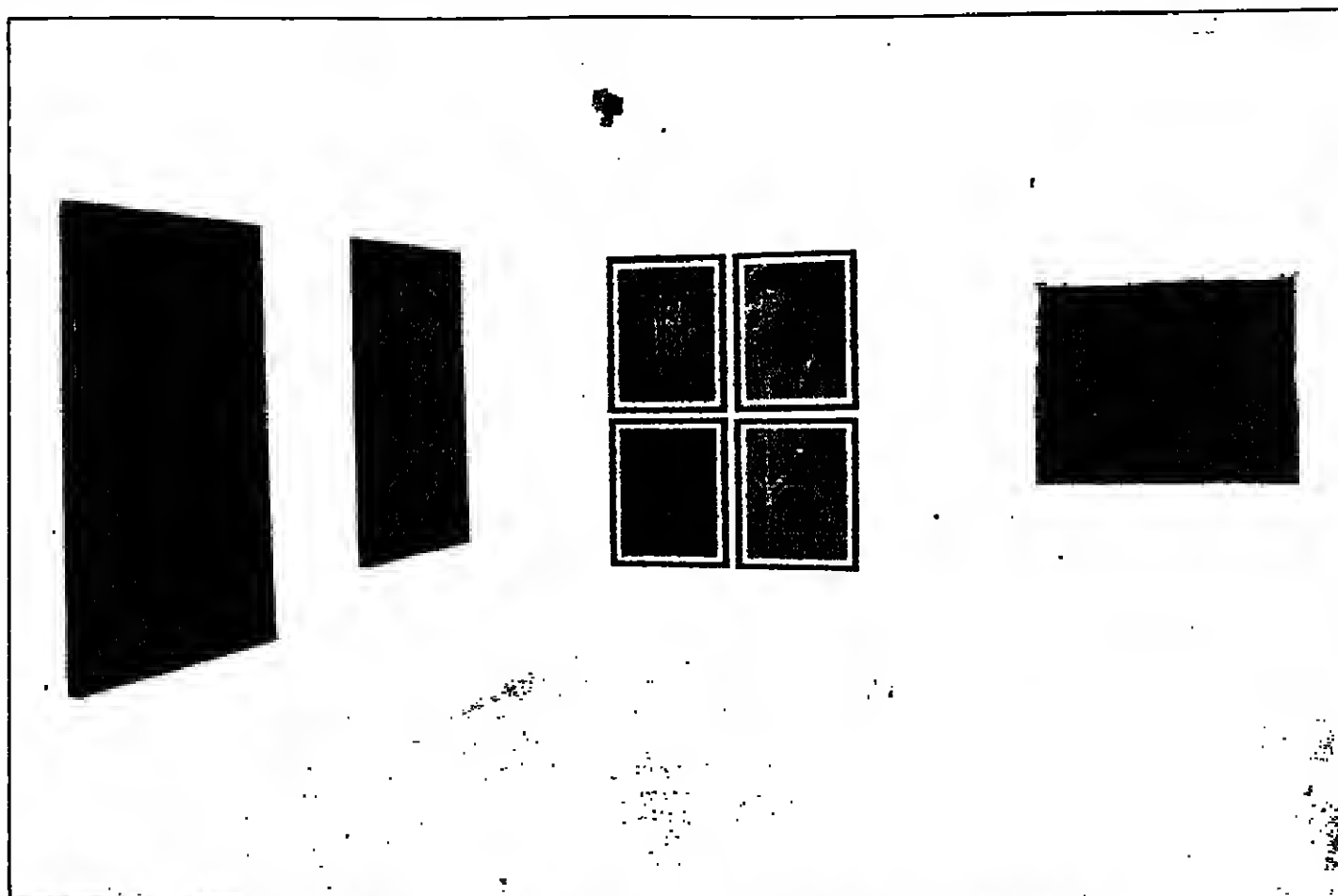
Regarding Petra as both an inspiration and an overwhelming challenge, Mrs. Shoman plans to continue her artistic study of the region for many years to come.

"Every time I see it with new eyes; every time I take a canvas, it's like painting Petra for the first time," she said. "If I continue to paint Petra and explore its wonders, perhaps one day I will understand it," added Mrs. Shoman, who maintains a studio in the area.

Those who have spent time in Petra will immediately recognise and appreciate Mrs. Shoman's abstract works. Yet even the viewer unfamiliar with the site of the ancient Nabatean city will be struck by the artistic quality and depth of the works featured in the exhibition.

As one viewer noted, "Petra is a symbol of Jordan, but this approach makes it a universal."

The exhibition entitled Legend Of Petra II will be on display at the National Gallery of Fine Arts until May 3.



Suha Shoman's works are on display at the National Gallery of Fine Arts

# Syrian artist's works hold viewers' eyes prisoner

By Ica Wabbah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN—First you see the colours. Competing with the rainbow, they hold the eye prisoner to their beauty and vibrance.

Then you hear the music. No, not the muzak piped through the gallery, a note too high perhaps, but the inner music of Loujaina Al Assil's paintings.

The Syrian artist, exhibiting for the first time in Jordan, uses modern colours with an almost classical technique to create haunting images of passion-consumed musicians whose concentration on the instrument they are playing — mostly the violin, but also the flute, the piano, the violoncello — is skillfully enhanced by the bold strokes of electric colours.

The anal blue, the purple and pink meet in zig-zags and curves, in a symphony of

colours as intense as that of the musicians.

Alone or in duos, they hold their instruments in a passionate embrace, the emanating sound, movement and colours giving a multi-dimensional dynamic to the paintings.

## ART REVIEW

The tints are bold, lines cross silhouettes with vigorous, almost aggressive movements, yet the delicate face of the violinist pacifies the tumultuous movement, lends peace of mind to the troubled soul of the artist.

Mrs. Assil, as if to prove her versatile deftness, in two of her canvases renounces colours to create, on a white background, just one, barely sketched black contour, that of cello and flute player, respectively. In this case, again,

the easy flow of lines creates movement.

Straight-backed, seated figures, in this cycle of musical canvases, are in a world of their own, that of music and passion. Contours are not always clear, faces and bow-holding hands appear from a nebulous background, but the images are clearly conveyed even by these fragmented representations. At times, black is used to outline the contour, bringing forth the figures, detaching them from the background but also making them an integral part of the whole.

Taking less space than the musicians, but also strongly represented, is the woman.

A group of female nudes is either barely sketched or painstakingly detailed to create figures in reclined positions, voluptuously posing or sensibly pensive, head in



Loujaina Al Assil

hand, half turned from the world around. The background is usually

dark, the woman illuminating it with her graceful figure.

The bedouin woman is also represented, eyes closed (in three out of four canvases), possessing an inner wisdom that does not need to see the outside world to understand it. Matronly resting, hands sensibly crossed, she is serene, self-sufficient, strong.

And, part of two intensely coloured paintings again, the woman is represented as voluptuously lying down on a couch in an opulence of dark, rich colours, reminiscent of old Turkish tapestry, or, sitting on top of a mountain, strong, contemplating nature and not afraid of it, proving to be the man's peer in the taming of the universe.

Perhaps reflective of the artist's own views of the woman, her representations haunt you for some time and give way to meditation. Ms. Assil used water-col-

ours, coal, gouache, China ink, pastel and oil on paper to create the world of colours in her canvases. Their vibrance enhances the intensity of feelings without bringing a note of discrepancy in the harmonious ensemble of the paintings.

The artist, who confesses to finding music a sine qua non of life, also says that all her paintings were done with models. "I did nothing from imagination. I only added my interpretation of feelings stirred by the musicians."

Two horse heads, there perhaps to fill the space as they could well have been left out, can only find the explanation of their presence in that they come to complement the hues of the other paintings, being of the same rich colour combination as the rest.

The exhibition, at the Baladna Art Gallery, runs until April 20, 1993.



One of Loujaina Al Assil's paintings currently on display at Baladna Art Gallery

# Teatime with Julian Lennon

By Anthony Vanger

HOLLYWOOD — His first big success — Too Late For Goodbyes — brought him to the attention of the public; yet it has taken Julian Lennon almost a decade to come out of the long shadow cast by his father, John, shot dead on a New York street in 1980. About to release a new album, Julian lives a quiet life with his girlfriend, Olivia D'Abo. At first glance when he opens the door, the resemblance to his world-famous father is uncanny. It's as if time had stopped and the Beatles' song writer/singer were standing there.

Julian is John Lennon's first son, born from John's early marriage — kept secret for a while — to a British woman who has made a point of staying out of the footlights. Almost painfully shy, he sort of extends a hand, but thinks better of it and gingerly invites me in. "I've just baked a cake," he said, directing me over to the kitchen, "do you want some?" So, over tea and what turned out to be a delicious chocolate cake, we settled down to talk.

Question: You are probably tired of being asked this, but how does it feel to be so physically similar to your father?

ANSWER: "I do get asked all the time, although less and less...In the beginning, I guess it bothered me. But these days, let's just say that I've got used to it. I mean you know, I'm not the first kid to look like his father!"

Q: Do you find that people expect you to be like John Lennon? Is there some kind of unspoken pressure to deliver what your father delivered to so many of his fans?

A: "Yes, I expect there is. My father was a very important figure and he made a lot of sense to a lot of people, all over the world, but his music had a very different message from mine."

Q: In what way?

A: "Well, the songs I write could never be the same as his. He had a completely different life than me. He grew up in a different world, and he was part of a movement to change that world. Nowadays, I feel that things are much more complicated. The world perspective is almost impossible to conceive — it is too big — and so what I, what a lot of other musicians are doing, is to narrow the perspective down to one's own feelings and not the feelings of a whole generation."

Q: So you don't think that you will become the voice of a generation?

A: "No, I don't think anyone will. My father, Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, these guys couldn't exist today in the same way as they did before. The public is too well-informed to completely subscribe to the message of a song. I mean, 30 years ago, I think the general public was incredibly impressionable and because rock music was such a new thing it literally turned their lives upside down. Today, rock has been around for a long time. It has become part of the establishment."

Q: Do you think that the fact that record companies are being bought out by giants like Sony is going to undermine

the integrity of rock music?

A: "Every year some rock critic stands up and officially announces that rock is dead, but then along comes someone with something new and the same critic pronounces that rock has found its 'new voice,' and then that 'new voice' disappears just as quickly as it came. It happens all the time, believe me, I know! But as far as rock losing its integrity, I think that as long as there are people writing songs about the things they know and experience, the music will never grow old and tired."

Q: You are working on a new album at the moment, could you explain how you set about writing your songs?

A: "Basically, I tend to write on the piano, so the songs that emerge are more likely to be ballads. But of course, you can't have an album full of ballads, so I need to have a guitar shoved in my face from time to time...just to remind me not to be too melancholic! Doing an album is a long process. It's difficult to describe, because when it works, it just works and you don't know why. And when it doesn't work, you don't know why either. It's bloody frustrating!"

Q: How have you been affected by the fact that since 1984, you have not enjoyed the same kind of success generated by your debut album, Valotte?

A: "It has been difficult. I mean, in the beginning, it was a real struggle to get anyone to take me seriously. I couldn't even get a record deal...I guess a lot of the record companies didn't want to be accused of exploitation. But then the album became a smash and I was on the cover of all these magazines. It was great. We had a tour and everything was going really well and I proved a lot of people wrong, including myself."

Q: I read that you were voted "Best New Artist" of 1985 in Rolling Stone Magazine?

A: "Yeah, what a laugh, eh? If only they'd known!"

Q: Then what happened?

A: "I cut a follow-up album, The Secret Value Of Daydreaming and, well, let's just say that after it came out, I ran off to Switzerland."

Q: You ran off to hide?

A: "Yes, you could say that. Daydreaming was more than 'not successful,' it bombed. I mean, the first album was a rite of passage. It was an album about the things that had happened to me, things that I had experienced, and when I sat down to write, it all came out, in one go. The second album was not like that at all. It was much harder and now, looking back on it, I realise that I never had control over what was going on."

Q: You didn't write the songs?

A: "No, I wrote them, but I wasn't really doing what I wanted to do, not because of anyone's fault, mind you, but I wrote about what I thought I should write about, rather than what I really wanted to write about. It took me a while to get over that experience. Then I released another in 1991 called Help Yourself. I was real happy with that effort."

Q: I read a review of that album in Rolling Stone, a good review by the way, but it kept on making references to your father's album with The Beatles, Help. In fact, every review of your work makes comparisons to your father's voice, his style of composition, his lyrics. How can you escape that legacy?

A: "Critics who have nothing better to do than to continually compare me to my father are missing the point. It used to bother me a lot, like why can't they just take me for who I am? But now, you know, you adapt. You have to — otherwise you go crazy."

Q: Speaking of adapting, it appears that after bouncing back and forth between London, New York and Los Angeles over the last 10 years, you have finally settled down in California. Isn't it strange for an Englishman living all the way out here?

A: "Yes, it is strange. I was born in Liverpool and I grew up in England and sometimes I do miss it. You know the whole homesick feeling, it's difficult to pinpoint, but the thing about L.A. is that everybody is from somewhere else. In all the time I've spent here, I don't think I've ever met anyone who was actually born here!"

Q: It has been said, by Robin Williams I think, that the only culture to be found in Los Angeles is in the yogurt...

A: "It's true, Los Angeles is a young town, so it doesn't have the culture of Liverpool or London. But there are a lot of great things about this place. And, I mean, look at England where they've been in a recession for 15 years. Places that I knew as a kid have become totally derelict. People are out of work, there doesn't seem to be any hope. It's sad. Here at least, there seems to be a future."

Q: What about last year's riots?

A: "Frightening, all the more because you could watch it on TV. I kept on having to remind myself that I was watching something real and not just a show."

Q: What lessons have you learned over the last few years, between the success of your debut album and now? It seems that you have managed to put your career into some sort of manageable perspective and that you are no longer aspiring to be what everybody wants you to be?

A: "Everybody saw the potential after the first album, most of it in terms of the money that could be made, but then when the follow-up bombed, a lot of people in the industry wrote me off. But I'm still here. I feel more confident and I think the lesson I've learned is that you can only do your best. If you're satisfied with your own work, that's the most you can ask for."

Q: Do you actually need to work to make a living?

A: "Yes, I need to work to make a living — just like everybody, I guess."

Q: Three years ago, at age 26, you inherited about \$250,000 from a trust fund which you share with your half-brother Sean. This is separate from your father's estate which is controlled by your step-mother, Yoko Ono. What is your relationship with her?



Julian Lennon is trying to establish his own identity as a singer-songwriter

A: "I was waiting for that one...Let's just say that although I have said a lot of things in the past about her, I was young and I hurt people with those remarks. So I decided some time ago that I would keep those questions to myself. She's family and family matters should be kept private."

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: "I've got to finish this album. That's my first priority. When that's done, I'll probably do a tour — how big will depend on how well the album does — and then, well, I've never been one for looking too far ahead. That's a fine thing coming from someone who's about to turn 30! Let's just say that today, today I'm going to go for a ride on my bike. It's the first sunny day we've had in L.A. for months. Yeah, that seems like a good idea. You wanna come?" — World News Link.



## Japan healer cures impotence, smokers

By Gareth Jones  
Reuters

TOKYO — When a young bridegroom came to him complaining of impotence, Misao Takenouchi knew exactly what to do. He placed dried leaves on the man's big toe and burned them.

"It always works. He never came back after that and now he's the father of five children," chuckled Mr. Takenouchi, at 73 one of Japan's blindest and most distinguished acupuncturists.

By inserting needles into a patient's body or burning the

dried leaves of mugwort (moxa) on the skin, acupuncturists can tackle most physical ailments as well as a wide range of emotional and nervous problems, Mr. Takenouchi said in an interview.

"For people trying to give up smoking or heavy drinking, we needle or burn certain points on the ears," he said.

Mr. Takenouchi, a short, dapper old man, is himself an excellent advertisement for his craft.

He decided to become an acupuncturist following an accident as a young man.

Working at a cement site, he was almost crushed by a rockslide which left him paralysed down one side and killed two of his workmates.

He had resigned himself to life as a cripple, until one day a Buddhist pilgrim visiting his home treated him with moxa.

Two months later he had recovered to the point where, despite a persistent numb feeling, he could function more or less normally.

"This experience was like a summons for me and I vowed to study oriental medicine and become an acupuncturist," said Mr. Takenouchi,

whose left side is devoid of feeling to this day.

Although normally associated with China, acupuncture has existed in Japan and most of East Asia for over 1,000 years.

"Acupuncture entered Japan along with Buddhism from China and Korea in the sixth century, but it has followed a different course of development here and taken on specifically Japanese features," Mr. Takenouchi told Reuters.

One important difference is the size of the needles used. Japanese acupunctur-

ists use smaller, much finer needles than Chinese counterparts.

To alleviate the shock of piercing the body, the needle is loaded in a tube that presses against the skin and prepares it for the needle, said Mr. Takenouchi.

"Japanese are delicate, they don't like pain," he joked.

During his 50 years of practice, Mr. Takenouchi said that Japanese ailments had changed along with the country, mirroring its rise to economic superpower status.

"These days my patients often suffer from illnesses associated with obesity, sexual anxiety, cancer and other ills caused by material wealth for a fast, stressful pace of life."

"Before and immediately after World War II, by contrast, one of the commonest problems among patients was

malnutrition."

Oriental medicine takes a holistic approach towards healing and does not just concentrate on a given regional pain, he said.

"Western medicine deals with specific problems. It waits for an illness to appear and then treats the effects or symptoms."

He said that a doctor's attitude and ability to empathise were essential parts of the healing process.

"To treat a sick person it is not enough to stuff drugs down his throat. You have to look at his work environment, his family or love life, of course his diet, in short, the whole picture."

Acupuncture, the focus of Japanese medicine for centuries, went into decline after the country opened up to Western culture and learning in the late 19th century.

"But there are signs of revived interest in acupuncture in Japan," said Mr. Takenouchi, who runs his own clinic and also treats patients once a week at a large Tokyo hospital.

Japan was due to host an international conference on acupuncture later this year, he said.

Perhaps one of the most pleasing developments was the increase in Western interest in acupuncture and other branches of oriental medicine, he added.

One of his pupils, Briton Edward Obaidey, echoed this view.

"Modern Western medicine has become costly and bureaucratic and so we're seeing a greater interest in a more natural, preventive approach," said Mr. Obaidey, who runs his own acupuncture clinic in Tokyo.

In oriental medicine, disease is believed to occur when the smooth flow of vital life energy (in Japanese Ki, in Chinese Ch'i) through the body is obstructed.

The acupuncturist aims to restore the flow by inserting needles or burning moxa at certain key points along 12 basic meridians distributed all over the body. The mild shock is meant to stimulate the body's self-regulative powers.

Women's period pains or morning sickness during pregnancy are worked on through the inner ankle, obesity through the navel, emotional stress via the head and upper back and haemorrhoids by burning moxa on the top of the scalp, he said.

Mr. Takenouchi said he had no plans to retire. "I hope to die in my clinic, at work with my needles."

## Tiny firm claims breakthrough on bifocal contacts

By Simon Louissou  
Reuters

WELLINGTON — A small New Zealand firm says it has produced an improved bifocal contact lens that would fit most human eyes, an achievement which has eluded multi-nationals dominating the contact lens market.

"Nobody else can make that claim," said Ian Handricks, a partner of Hirstlens, the company that produces the lenses.

Who needs bifocals? Everyone, according to Handricks.

"Everybody will one day need reading glasses. You can't avoid it," he told Reuters.

"If you say that two per cent of the Western world wears contacts then we are talking about a very, very big market."

Of the thousands of different types of contact lens products and brands, only five companies produce bifocals, and only a tiny percentage of people's eyes can adapt to them, Mr. Hand-

ricks said.

The New Zealand lens would be suitable for most people. "The bifocal we are producing is available in any power, in any additional power, in any reading script, in any material," he said.

Most people using contact lenses have to surrender them in middle age when they begin to need reading glasses.

"No one wants to give up contact lenses after wearing them for 10 or 15 years, they become part of your personality," he said.

The bifocal lenses are undergoing clinical trials at the moment.

Optometrist John Adam said: "Typically I only get 20-30 per cent success fitting bifocals but I am having 70-80 per cent success with these lenses. That's good." He has 15 patients undergoing trials with the lens.

Another optometrist, Victoria Elias, said some of her patients had had problems with the early version of the lens, and she has yet to have reports back on the latest model.

"There's no technical reason why they shouldn't work," she said.

Hirstlens has been manufacturing contact lens for over 50 years.

Mr. Handricks first formulated the idea of bifocal contacts in the mid-1970s but the technology was not advanced enough to produce them.

He then spent eight years in Britain helping develop a computer-controlled machine, two of which he bought back to the Auckland-based Hirstlens Laboratory.

Aided by a grant from the government-backed Foundation of Science Research and Technology Fund, Mr. Handricks was able to create a product that could make lenses to an accuracy of 0.0001 mm (one micron).

"That is a huge jump in fine cutting technology," he said.

He was also able to adapt the process into a computer numerically-controlled network.

"It's almost an intelligent manufacturing process," he

said.

Hirstlens then contracted out the government science company industrial research to carry out the engineering.

So how was a company, which employs only 16 people, able to beat large companies such as Bausch Lomb — famous for Ray Ban sunglasses — Pilkington and Ciba Geigy, all of which have been working to produce a suitable bifocal contact?

He said the answer was to keep things simple.

"We have the ability to turn quickly and to take out the jungle of paper war that inevitably follows R&D projects. We don't need five scientists to agree to go ahead."

"We are management and the developers and we have an unusually close relationship with our clients," he said.

Mr. Handricks said the company needed more capital to develop international markets. Whether that meant a tie-up with one of the major multi-nationals or a franchise operation had not been decided.

## Scientists find way to target natural killer cells against colon cancer

By Paul Reecer  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Human immune cells linked with special antibodies have turned into biological smart bombs that target and kill colon cancer cells, according to researchers who tested the technique in mice.

Dr. Hiroshi Takahashi of Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Centre in Charlestown, Mass., said that although the method has been tested only in mice, it could develop into a powerful new therapy for human cancers.

A report on the study was published in the journal Science.

Dr. Takahashi said the technique uses powerful killer cells that are present in the human immune system.

The cells, called Lymphokine Activated Killer cells, or LAK, have been shown to be extremely toxic to colon cancer tumours in test-tube experiments. In clinical trials with patients, however, Dr. Takahashi said the LAK cells mount only a weak attack on the cancer.

"When they are put into patients, for some reason the cells do not localise to tumours with the same toxicity they show (in test tubes)," the researcher said.

Dr. Takahashi said it was thought that if the LAK could be directed to target tumour cells more directly, it could be a powerful cancer killer. One way to do that, he

said, would be to link LAK with an antibody that naturally seeks out cancer cells.

To test the idea, Dr. Takahashi and his colleagues infected laboratory mice with human colon cancer cells. They then attached human LAK cells to a laboratory made antibody that naturally seeks out and attaches to colon cancer cells.

One group of mice infected with human colon cancer was injected with untreated LAK cells. Another group of mice was injected with the LAK cells that had been linked with the antibody.

The result was a reduction in tumours of up to 80 per cent among the mice receiving the LAK-plus antibody injections, Dr. Takahashi

said.

The median survival time for untreated mice was 30 days, while mice that received four injections of the LAK antibody cells had a median survival time of 54 days.

Dr. Takahashi said the study proved that it is possible to link the LAK cells with antibodies that will carry the powerful killer cells directly to cancer cells.

With additional research, LAK cells possibly could be manipulated into cancer smart bombs in human patients, he said.

Co-investigators with Dr. Takahashi were Tetsuya Nakada and Isabelle Puisieux, all of Massachusetts General Hospital.

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## Doctors experiment with laser method to destroy breast tumours

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Doctors said they were experimenting with a new laser method that may one day enable them to destroy breast tumours without surgery.

The technique relies on lasers and magnetic resonance imaging, a technology which uses magnetic fields to "look" inside the body.

The method was outlined by Stephen Bown, director of the National Medical Laser Centre at the Rayne Institute in London and by William Evans and Steven Harms, two doctors from the Baylor University Medical Centre in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Bown said his group

was trying to "develop techniques for destroying localised cancers within the breast without the need for any surgery at all."

The group was looking at ways to destroy tumours and leave dead tissue inside the breast and the rest to the body's normal healing mechanisms, he told a news conference at a meeting of the society for magnetic resonance imaging here.

One technique involved putting a needle into the tumour through the skin using a local anaesthetic and then putting a laser fiber through the needle, leaving the fiber in the tumour.

"You then activate that

from a low-power laser and so effectively you cook the tumour where it arises, without the need for any surgery at all."

For the method to be safe, it is essential to know exactly how far the laser damage goes, so that no living cancerous tissue is left behind, Dr. Bown said.

He said work carried out by Dr. Harms on magnetic resonance imaging had made this much easier.

Magnetic resonance imaging uses magnetic fields and radio waves to generate signals that are transformed by computer into visual images. Dr. Harms and his colleagues are using the method to see how far a tumour extends.

Dr. Bown said his team was currently experimenting with the technique, treating patients with small breast cancers with the laser before surgery.

They took a magnetic resonance image of the tumour

before and after laser treatment. After the tumour was removed surgically, it was examined carefully to see if the imaging was accurate and how far laser damage went, Dr. Bown said.

"It will be some time before we have enough confidence that we can really match the laser damage to extent of the tumour and not do anything more, just leave it there. But that is our dream and hopefully that's not more than a year or two away," Dr. Bown said.

However, he stressed that it was a potential treatment only for carefully selected patients with relatively small tumours that have not spread beyond the breast.

Dr. Evans said he did not believe magnetic resonance imaging would replace mammograms as a screening tool for detecting breast cancer because it is very expensive, costing about \$1,500 compared with \$60 for a mammogram.

## Genetic defect behind some brain tumours found

BOSTON (R) — Researchers have detected a minute genetic defect which is thought to generate a rare but severe inherited brain cancer and may also be implicated in nearly one third of other brain tumours.

The defect occurs on Chromosome 22, the shortest of the 23 pairs of genetic material carried in each human cell. When the gene is deactivated it causes Neurofibromatosis Type 2, a cousin of the illness known as Elephant Man's Disease.

The gene is involved in about 30 per cent of brain tumours which occur sporadically in people without a family history of such tumours, the researchers said. About 15,600 Americans develop some type of brain tumour each year, 11,500 fatal.

NF2 sufferers have many, slow-growing brain and spinal cord tumours which gradually cause deafness, paralysis and a host of other

severe neurological problems.

NF2 tumours apparently arise when both pairs of Chromosome 22 develop an identical defect and the cells can no longer make a protein that suppresses the growth of cancer.

The protein apparently helps control the shape and movement of the cell and its ability to communicate with other cells.

The research, by a team at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, appears in the medical journal Cell.

Also participating in the study was the National Cancer Institute, the U.S. Public Health Service and researchers from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute.

Doctors have long believed that cancer occurs in a two-step process which begins with a genetic defect which is inherited or caused by a chemical or radiation.

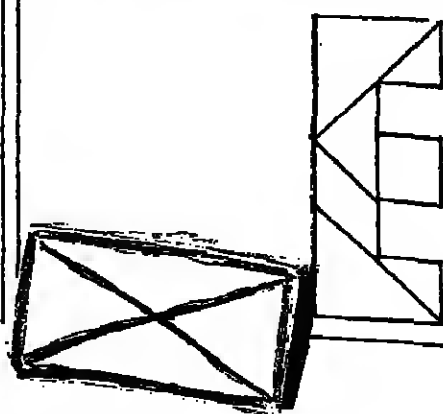
### SOLUTIONS

#### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE:

1. A sacred bull which can change its colour.
2. Debts which are not likely to be paid back.
3. From the coal fields near its shores.
4. They are all difference kinds of caviar.
5. Airborne Warning and Control System.
6. Pompeia (Second wife).
7. Aeschylus.
8. Playing cards.

#### PUZZLES:

The letter "E" is constructed as shown here.



### WEEKEND CROSSWORD

UNIVERSAL  
By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS  
1 Experts  
2 Storage place  
3 Inhabit  
4 Particularity  
5 Accessory  
6 Rime  
7 Kind of beam  
8 Merchant guild  
9 var.  
10 Song from Gong  
11 Far away  
12 Perfume  
13 Beane  
14 Have debts  
15 Trust for  
16 Unit of heat  
17 Musical  
18 male  
19 Ski lift  
20 Windstorm  
21 About 15 miles  
22 square miles  
23 in a classic way

DOWN  
1 Church section  
2 Monk's hood  
3 Director Kazan  
4 City in Ohio  
5 Teller  
6 Howard of  
7 Happy Days  
8 Onions  
9 Forebears  
10 Wave  
11 Nonchalance  
12 Far tower  
13 Burial  
14 Glycerine-Sm  
15 Newsmen  
16 Name of a  
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Diagramless 17 x 17. By Don Johnson

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1 Family places  
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4 Unusual  
5 Wash cycle  
6 Name of a lewding family  
7 Impudent for scattering seed

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3 Rockhouse  
4 Urges  
5 Leaked slowly  
6 Something that confuses  
7 Group of three  
8 Split  
9 Church part  
10 Equal  
11 Put away

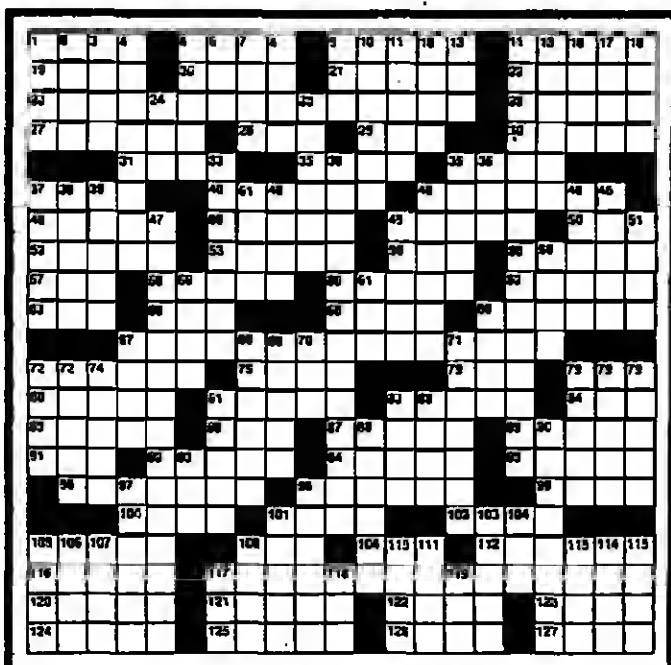
43 Holonga  
44 Tropical fruit  
45 Fanways  
46 Kind of boom  
47 Narrow inlet  
48 Singer — John  
49 Pronunciation  
50 Pub drink  
51 One to a  
52 Highgate poet  
53 And not  
54 Upper crust  
55 "Johnny"  
56 Indian dealer  
57 Ruth's mother-in-law  
58 Genes  
59 1960  
60 Egg — yolk  
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62 Most sensitive  
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19 Lined up  
20 Oiled  
21 Drummer of baseball  
22 Mike  
23 Unhappy  
24 Maple leaf  
25 French town  
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Perseus told a choir member that his fit of doldrums could be traced to his husband's profession.
2. Minnie asked Mickey to build her a tiny black brick mouse house.
3. Would pleasant peasant who lived peasant into trap present H. W. pleasure to his spouse?
4. When white people burst into his pristine world, fortune didn't favor the brave.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CIPN HJCEJ SCLANL XJBPW TLJD  
QJEVYQT JBE DNNWK JQ VYE QNDPR  
HBLXVCKNW SCLA YQ EVN XJBQLR

—By Earl Ireland

2. LOS BSMU-BRASOW LIRE CB LXSORTLEW  
SCLU BAR TAVTI THREW RECH L ZLXHVW  
RCLURLE ZBVECLREW BLSOWT

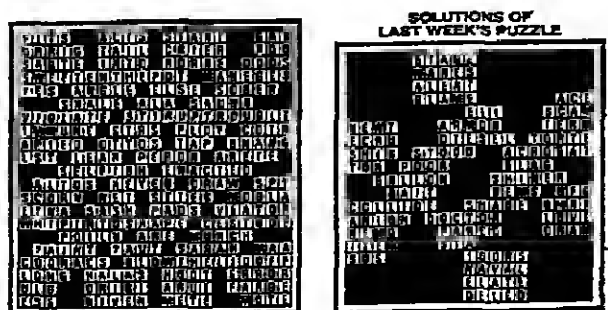
—By Eugene T. Malenka

3. PNR SAPRUQT CLEEM KRRH BUQRQ PU  
SLOAFN LS GDEM SPARKLANZ

—By Barbara J. Rugg

4. WXCAMFZ XVMIB ABEXCEIZ TYXR  
JCUFABL MGI XMGH FUB VXH  
IEHTMGABL TYX WXZAJCT PUB

—By Gordon Miller



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE





## Judge orders handwriting samples in bombing case

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has ordered handwriting samples taken of another defendant in the World Trade Centre bombing.

U.S. District Judge Kevin T. Duffy also tried Tuesday to clarify his sweeping gag order, saying the five defendants can talk to the media if they like but he expects their lawyers will advise them against it.

Mr. Duffy imposed a strict gag rule 12 days ago prohibiting both sides from talking about the case.

### Yeltsin

(Continued from page 1)

leader. Russia wants targeted G-7 action rather than empty promises of financial aid.

"It's not the amount we are focusing on, it's whether there's actual cooperation," Sergey Lavrov, deputy to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, told the French News Agency (AFP). "We are seeking a new joint approach which is characterized by very specific targets," Mr. Lavrov said.

"This translates to real priorities and real mechanisms. Twenty-four billion dollars with a lack of mechanisms did not help us very much. Nobody in our country felt any positive effects from this."

Less than half of the \$24 billion pledged with great fanfare in 1992 has been disbursed, dashing the hopes of Russian people and eroding public opinion in the West.

Mr. Yeltsin said Wednesday he will resign if voters reject him and support the parliament in Russia's nationwide referendum on April 25.

In a two-hour Kremlin news conference, however, Mr. Yeltsin exuded confidence he would win and outlined plans to introduce a new constitution and continue his market-oriented reforms with the referendum mandate.

The session with Russian and foreign reporters was part of Mr. Yeltsin's stepped-up campaign to win support in the referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin seemed tired, speaking slowly and at times with difficulty. His eyes were puffy after a trip to Siberia Tuesday to rally his blue-collar supporters in the coal-rich Kuznetsk basin.

But his optimism was in sharp contrast to Tuesday, when, asked in Siberia if he was confident of winning, Mr. Yeltsin said: "No, I'm not."

The Russian president told reporters he might travel to Tokyo at the end of May, in light of statements by Japanese officials that they would not link aid to Russia with the return of four islands occupied by Soviet forces at the end of World War II.

and threatened exponentially increasing fines that would start at \$200 and reach \$1.6 billion by the third offense.

The judge discussed the gag rule during the arraignment of Bilal Al Kaysi, the fifth man charged in the Feb. 26 bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1,000. He ordered Mr. Kaysi to provide handwriting samples as the other defendants had done.

Mr. Kaysi, 27, will stand trial on Sept. 14 along with his former roommate, Mohammad Salameh, 25; Nidal Ayyad, 25, and Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, the alleged organizer of the bombing who was arrested in Egypt. A fifth suspect, Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, 25, is the subject of a worldwide search by U.S. authorities.

All of the defendants are charged with using explosives to damage a building, a federal offense punishable by life in prison.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) complaint filed against

Mr. Kaysi said a timing mechanism used in explosives was found at his New Jersey residence. It also said he was seen near the Jersey City storage plant where investigators found chemicals believed to be similar to those used in the bombing.

At the arraignment, Michael S. Washor and Robert L. Ellis announced they had been retained as private counsel for Mr. Kaysi and asked the judge for clarification of his gag order.

Mr. Duffy said the lawyers were not allowed to say anything that might come up at trial. "I have no idea of who thought I was gagging the defendants but apparently someone misunderstood it, either intentionally or because they didn't understand it," the judge said.

Noting that when he was a prosecutor, the judge used to view statements by defendants as either admissions or lies, he said, "I would assume you'd be instructing your clients not to talk."

Mr. Duffy also denied a request for an immediate stay of his

gag by Burt Neuborne, a former legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union who was asked to handle the gag rule's appeal by Robert Precht, Mr. Salameh's lawyer.

"My idea is to cut off the trial of the case in the media now," Mr. Duffy said.

Seven news organizations also have asked Mr. Duffy to withdraw the gag order.

The Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to handle an appeal of the order by a lawyer for two defendants in the case on an expedited basis.

Meanwhile, the wife and four children of one of the defendants, Mr. Abu Halima, arrived in New York on a flight from Egypt early Tuesday morning.

Mr. Abu Halima's German wife and their four children, who carry U.S. passports, were seen off by members of Abu Halima's Egyptian family. They refused to speak to reporters.

FBI said to have offered inmate a deal with a lie, page 2

# MAP

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## U.S. warns Serbia; aid flights to Bosnia resume

**ZAGREB, Croatia (Agencies)** — The United States will allow the rearming of Bosnia's Muslim-led government forces if their Serb enemies do not accept a U.N. peace plan, President Clinton's special envoy said Wednesday.

The U.N. Security Council has given Bosnian Serbs until April 26 to agree to the plan, already accepted by Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

If they refuse, the council plans to drastically tighten trade sanctions on Serbia, accused of arming and resupplying Bosnian Serbs.

"If they (Serbs) persist in their actions, the international community will make of Serbia a pariah state for as far ahead as we can see," a U.S. envoy Reginald Bartholomew told reporters in the Croatian capital.

He also said the United States and its allies would push for Bosnian government forces to be exempted from an international arms embargo on the warring factions if Bosnian Serbs continue to reject the plan.

The Serbs, who have seized 70 per cent of Bosnia, say they would not be given enough territory under the plan.

Russia's envoy, Vitaly Churkin, met in Belgrade with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic Wednesday in an attempt to nudge him toward accepting the U.N. plan.

World pressure is growing on the Serbs to accept peace. On Tuesday, U.N. officials denounced the Serb fighters in exceptionally harsh terms a day after more than 50 civilians were killed in the relentless pounding of Srebrenica, a besieged enclave in eastern Bosnia.

About 650 elderly men, women and children, the latest group to

flee Srebrenica, recuperated Wednesday in Tuzla, some 56 kilometres to the northwest.

The Sarajevo aid airlift, suspended Saturday after Serbs moved anti-aircraft weapons near the capital's airport, resumed one day ahead of plan Wednesday, said Aleksei Lisinski, a U.N. official.

But aid came too late for 10 others evacuated last week. They were buried in Tuzla Wednesday after succumbing to various wounds and illnesses sustained while in Srebrenica. Seven were children, including a 2-month-old baby.

U.N. monitors observed light shelling in Srebrenica Wednesday, with two shells landing just north of the city at daybreak. No casualties were reported.

Srebrenica, packed with tens of thousands of refugees, is one of only three areas held by the Muslim-led Bosnian government in eastern Bosnia.

In interviews broadcast in London Tuesday, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher passionately repeated her call for arming Bosnia's Muslims and backing them with "full air cover and if need be with ground attack."

"The West, by not doing more, has been a little like an accomplice in massacre," she said.

Meanwhile, foreign ministers from Britain, France, Russia and the United States, all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, met late Wednesday in Tokyo, mainly to discuss the crisis in Bosnia, a French diplomatic source said.

Warren Christopher of the United States, Britain's Douglas Hurd, France's Alain Juppe and Russia's Andrei Kozyrev met on the issue at a dinner hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi

Miyazawa for participants of the ministerial meeting of G7 nations here.

A NATO aircraft enforcing the U.N. "no-fly" zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina detected a small plane flying over the southern tip of the region Tuesday, NATO spokesman James Mitchell said here Wednesday.

Mr. Mitchell said it was unclear whether the plane detected around 1230 GMT had in fact violated the "no-fly" zone.

He said a Dutch reconnaissance aircraft was flying over the region of Dubrovnik when it observed the small plane for about ten minutes without establishing any radio contact.

"Its presence has so marginal that he can't confirm it really did penetrate into Bosnian territory," said Mr. Mitchell.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) aircraft began their Operation Deny Flight patrols over Bosnia Monday. On Tuesday they carried out 51 reconnaissance flights.

Mr. Mitchell, speaking at a daily briefing, said that had the plane been detected over the besieged Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, to the northeast, there would have been some type of action taken.

He said an investigation was underway to determine the origin of the plane. He added it was not impossible for a plane to quickly enter Bosnian airspace and drop some bombs over the region.

"This is a tough operation," he said. "The more experience the pilots and the cruise analysts have, the better it will be."

Mr. Mitchell also said that by the end of the week Dutch reconnaissance aircraft would be replaced by fighter planes.

"It is not a major change," he said. "It is an adjustment."

## Yeltsin to ask Rutskoi to resign

**MOSCOW (Agencies)** — President Boris Yeltsin announced Wednesday that he would ask Vice President Alexander Rutskoi to resign.

"It is impossible to have a vice president who does not agree with the policy of his president," Mr. Yeltsin told journalists at the Kremlin. "I think the time has come for him to decide his fate."

Asked exactly how he intended to go about the move, Mr. Yeltsin replied: "One must speak of it, not in public, but with the man himself, that's what I'm going to do."

Mr. Rutskoi, a former air force colonel, promoted to rank of general after his election on the Yeltsin ticket in June 1991, has distanced himself from the president over the past few months.

He declared himself in open opposition on March 20 after Mr. Yeltsin decided to introduce direct presidential rule pending a referendum on who — the president or parliament — runs Russia.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rutskoi, a hero of the war in Afghanistan, said he would have resigned "with pleasure" a long time ago if it were not for the thought, which kept him "awake at night", that radical reformers such as Gennady Burbulis, an aide to the president, might take his place.

Mr. Yeltsin also suggested that the president must remain in power until the (presidential and general) elections, which he believed would take place in the autumn.

Mr. Yeltsin had earlier said he would resign if he lost the April 25 referendum which he initially called, but which parliament has since made difficult for him to win, requiring as it does support by more than 50 per cent of registered voters.

"One can't leave a power vacuum in the country," he said. However, if voters in the referendum voted both against him and against early general elections, then he would have to leave, Mr. Yeltsin added.

Mr. Yeltsin also said that if he received a strong enough backing in the April 25 referendum, he would take "more decisive measures".

Speaking in the third person, Mr. Yeltsin said: "The president has prepared for April 26, in case he wins a vote of confidence, a whole package of legislative documents which could neutralise the negative activity of Congress."

The president has been locked in a power struggle with the Congress of People's Deputies, the Russian parliament.

U.S. congressmen said Tuesday President Yeltsin expects to win the April 25 referendum, and says he will quit if the vote goes against him.

House Majority leader Richard Gephardt said Mr. Yeltsin, in a meeting last week in Moscow, was "very confident and self-assured" about his chances, and estimated that 60 per cent of voters would endorse him. But he also stressed he would step down if rejected by voters, Mr. Gephardt said.

"He said it would be the only honorable thing to do," said Rep. David Obey chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operation and Export Financing.

House minority whip Newt Gingrich compared Mr. Yeltsin to French President Charles De Gaulle after World War II. "He doesn't want to be part of a decaying, reactionary regime."

## Violence, chaos erupt at Hani memorials

**JOHANNESBURG (AFP)** Violence and chaos erupted Wednesday as hundreds of thousands of South Africans took to city streets and township stadiums to mourn slain black nationalist leader Chris Hani.

In Cape Town, police said a policeman was shot in the head with an AK 47 assault rifle and seriously injured, and a peace monitor was stabbed during the march. Both were taken to hospital.

Police fired shotguns as thousands of demonstrators rampaged in the city centre, stoning police, looting shops and damaging cars close to the parliament building and President Frederik De Klerk's residence, an AFP correspondent and the South African news agency (SAPA) reported.

The violence came after African National Congress (ANC) leaders called for a peaceful protest in memory of the senior ANC official and South African Communist Party chief, shot on Saturday. A white man has been arrested for his murder.

Police in bullet-proof vests were struggling to keep the Cape Town demonstration under control, but troop transports were blocked by a crowd around Saint George's Cathedral and in city centre streets.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a Muslim sheikh, Nazem Mohammad, were due to conduct an ecumenical requiem service for Mr. Hani at the cathedral.

In Soweto township near Johannesburg, chaos erupted at Jabulani Stadium, where ANC President Nelson Mandela appealed for discipline and calm. ANC marshals battled to control the crowd of over 50,000 who overwhelmed the 15,000 seat amphitheatre.

Mr. Mandela, who made an impassioned plea for peace during Wednesday's nationwide work stoppage in a national broadcast Tuesday, told the crowd that "we should not resort to violence."

But incidents were reported from around the country, as petrol-bombs and burning tyre barricades were set up in townships.

Police said a black man was killed in Thokoza township east of Johannesburg, while two white holidaymakers were killed when gunmen raked their vehicle in Transkei black homeland.

Police spokesman Colonel Dave Bruce said "more radical elements" were exploiting the situation.

In Pietermaritzburg, in the volatile eastern Natal province, police fired shots to disperse ANC crowds after claiming they were fired on.

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Township residents in Cape Town burn barricades as they prepare to march into the city centre to protest against the assassination of Chris Hani (AFP photo)

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## COLUMN

### Pulitzer Prizes given for coverage of Bosnia

**NEW YORK (R)** — Two American reporters who exposed atrocities in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday shared a Pulitzer Prize, the top U.S. award for excellence in journalism and the arts. John Burns, of the New York Times, and Roy Gutman, of Newsday, were named co-winners of the Pulitzer for international news for coverage of the destruction of Sarajevo and the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Gutman was cited for his exclusive articles exposing in harrowing detail the existence of concentration camps in the former Yugoslavia. It was after his reports that world attention was focused on these camps. The Pulitzer Prizes, in their 77th year as journalism's top awards, are given out annually. Each winner gets \$3,000. The Washington Post won three awards, for national reporting, feature writing and criticism. The Miami Herald won two awards, one for meritorious public service for its coverage of hurricane Andrew and its aftermath and one for Liz Balmaseda's commentary from Haiti about the deteriorating political and social climate there. New York writer Tony Kushner's Angels in America won for best play. The Los Angeles Times won the Spot News Award for coverage of the second and most destructive day of the Los Angeles riots, the worst in the United States this century, following the verdict in the beating of black motorist Rodney King case last spring.

## Coup plotters challenge jurisdiction of Moscow military court

**MOSCOW (AFP)** — Twelve former Soviet leaders accused of plotting the failed August 1991 coup attempt against then leader Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday challenged the jurisdiction of the military Supreme Court trying them.

The challenge came on the first day of the trial, shortly before the court session was adjourned.

The 12 men, who face possible death sentences on charges of conspiracy to seize power, left the courtroom as supporters in the audience applauded their challenge of the court.

The defendants, who are out on bail, arrived to the courthouse earlier in the day surrounded by hundreds of supporters carrying a red flag emblazoned with the insignia of the former USSR.

The defendants told the tribunal that it was not competent to handle their case since it was not "their" to the Soviet Supreme Court, the only authority they deemed legally fit to try them.

The president of the court, Anatoly Ukolov, said the complaint would be examined "later during the trial," indicating he did not intend this procedural matter hold up the case.

The attorney representing former Soviet Vice-President Gennady Yanayev was the first to begin defence arguments saying that "the matter concerns not only Russia, but also the other independent republics, formerly part of the USSR."

"That is why it is inadmissible that this case be judged by Russia's sole Supreme Court," said the attorney, according to the ITAR-TASS News Agency.

The attorney representing former parliamentary Speaker Anatoly Lukianov said some of the charges against the defendants took place in the Ukraine where Mr. Gorbachev was held for three days. Ukraine is now independent.

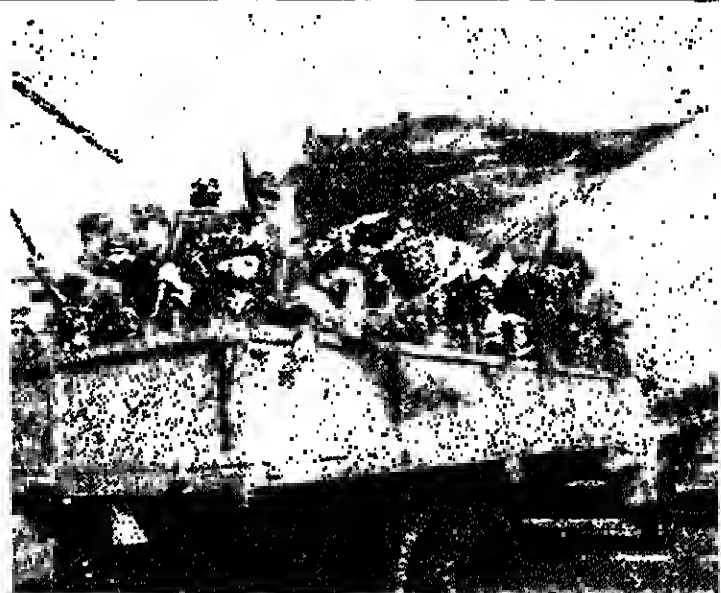
The attorneys asked that the military judges be replaced by a civilian jury.

"Gorbachev should be in prison in my place. The one who destroyed a great state is today taking trips abroad where he receives more honours," one of the defendants, Gennady Yanayev, told an AFP correspondent before going into court Wednesday morning.

In August 1991, half the population backed us. Today they are even more numerous," the former Soviet vice-president added.

Mr. Yanayev was one of the leaders of the State Committee for the State of Emergency which seized power from Aug. 19 to 21, 1991.

"The trial should be fairly objective because I believe the judges have a certain professional honesty," he added.



Turkish 'workers' of the Azerbaijan capital sit on a truck waving a Turkish national flag as they depart to support Azeri fighters in the Azeri region of Kelbadzhar which was seized by Armenian forces last week (AFP photo)

## UNHCR launches aid flights to Azerbaijan

**GENEVA (Agencies)** — The U.N. refugee agency Wednesday launched an emergency airlift of tents, blankets and other relief supplies for some 50,000 Azeris forced to flee an Armenian military advance in the former Soviet republic.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the first of eight daily flights left Adana, Turkey for the Azeri capital of Baku carrying 300 tents and nearly 12,000 blankets.

From Baku, the relief items will be transported by truck and distributed to a displaced people in Dashkezan, Ganja, Barad, and other regions hit by the refugee crisis.

During the eight-day operation, UNHCR said it would be airlifting 50,000 blankets, 100,000 sleeping bags, 2,500 tents, 500 rolls of plastic sheeting and 2,500 cooking sets.

The latest emergency in Azerbaijan, was set off by fierce clashes in the Kelbadzhar region, west of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenian forces began an assault on the region in late March, forcing tens of thousands of Azeris to flee over treacherous mountain passes to safety.

In Baku, Turkish President Turgut Ozal warned Wednesday that Ankara's patience was wearing thin following the latest Karabakh Armenian offensive, adding that his country stood firmly behind Azerbaijan in its conflict with Armenia.

"The world must realise that Turkic patience has its limits and it must not be pushed to these limits," Mr. Ozal said in an address to the Azerbaijani parliament, an unelected assembly of 50 deputies drawn from the National Council which briefly held power last year.

"Turkey has been and will continue to be the friend of Azerbaijan," he added.

While Mr. Ozal's 40-minute speech was interrupted several times with applause, his remarks

stopped short of the condemnation of Armenia he made Tuesday following talks with Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey.

"We appreciate Turkey's support but we had hoped for something more concrete today," one deputy said following Mr. Ozal's address.

The Turkish president said Tuesday that the six-year undeclared war between Azerbaijan and Armenia was now more than an issue of who controlled the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and had become a campaign by Yerevan to build a "greater Armenia" by expanding its borders eastwards deep into "Azerbaijani territory."

He said Turkey's increasing involvement in Azerbaijan was not an idle past-time but an "honour and a duty."

In Washington, acting Secretary of State Clifton Wharton met this week with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tahir Gasimov and, separately, with Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Jirair Libardian.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Mr. Wharton discussed the same matter with both officials: The conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Boucher Monday said Mr. Wharton's message to both diplomats was to end the conflict, but to Mr. Libardian it was also for Armenia to bring about the withdrawal of ethnic Armenian forces from the Kelbadzhar region of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Gasimov made no statement before returning to Baku, but Mr. Libardian expressed some dismay over the U.S. message in an interview Tuesday.

The repeated government denials that Armenia has troops in Azerbaijan, saying he doesn't know what Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other U.S. officials mean when they condemn "ethnic Armenians,"

## Top Sikh militant killed, another surrenders

**NEW DELHI (AFP)** — Indian troops shot dead a top Sikh militant overnight while another Sikh separatist chief surrendered to the authorities Wednesday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Surjit Singh, a commander of the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), one of several groups seeking an independent Sikh homeland in the northern state of Punjab, was killed in a gun battle late Tuesday, police told the news agency.

Kulwant Singh, considered a policy-maker of another militant group, the Babbar Khalsa, gave himself up meanwhile to Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh at a surrender ceremony in the Punjab town of Chandigarh, PTI reported.

The 47-year-old Kulwant Singh, who went by the nickname "Cashier," carried a reward of nearly \$3,500 on his head.

Meanwhile about 20,000 people attended a rally in New Delhi Wednesday to promote Hindu-Muslim unity in the wake of communal violence that has left nearly 2,000 people dead since December.

Speakers at the rally, held on the grounds outside the 17th century Red Fort, accused the main opposition Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian People's Party, of creating religious unrest.

Mr. Morris said, "I expect them to say that this is all a forgery."

"I'm surprised they haven't decided that this was a creation of the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency)."

Mr. Morris also rejected a suggestion that Russia leaked the document to secure more financing aid from the United States. "I have plenty of witnesses to how I found this document."

He said he found the paper about three months ago but U.S. and Russian officials would not co-operate with his aim of handling it discreetly.

"I attempted to bring it to the attention of the American government quietly and secretly," Mr. Morris said. "I did not want to make a fuss about it."

"And it was only because the Russians — at the request of the U.S. government who wanted their own copy and wouldn't co-operate with me on the basis of my plan — that the Russians declassified the document and leaked some of it to Izvestia, the Russian newspaper, Saturday."

He said he believed the leak to Izvestia was intended to make the

document public and therefore something that could be released to the United States.

The U.S. Defense Department Tuesday urged caution over a purported secret Vietnamese document found in Moscow archives suggesting Hanoi lied about how many U.S. prisoners it held during the Vietnam War.

"It needs to be evaluated very carefully. It needs to be analysed. It needs to be compared against other information that we have... before rushing to judgment and before doing a lot of speculation," said department spokesman Bob Hall.

"It's very, very important that we pursue this carefully and thoroughly until we can come to some conclusive, you know, evidence that will hopefully solve many of these cases" of missing American troops in Vietnam, Mr. Hall told reporters.

A senator and leaders of U.S. veterans and family organisations said the document proves Vietnam held American prisoners of war after the Vietnam War and lied about it.

"It is an authentic document, there is no question about that," Senator Bob Smith, a New

England Republican who was vice chairman of the Select Senate Committee on American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, said at a news conference.

Sen. Smith said some U.S. officials believed at the end of the war that Vietnam indeed held 1,100 to 1,200 American prisoners. He said the 1972 document said several Americans would be released shortly and that indeed three were released through Moscow 10 days later.

Sen. Smith and leaders of veterans' organisations including the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America announced they had urged President Bill Clinton in a letter not to take any step towards normalising U.S.-Vietnam relations.

They said they also urged Mr. Clinton to block any World Bank or International Monetary Fund loans to Vietnam when their members meet in Washington later this month.

Senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat who headed the special Senate committee investigation, said the document appeared real but he questioned the accuracy.

## Researcher defends Vietnam POW document

**CANBERRA (R)** — The Australian academic who found a document purporting to show that Hanoi lied about the number of its American prisoners during the Vietnam War rejected Vietnamese forgery claims Wednesday.

Stephen Morris, a researcher at Harvard University, in the United States, denied he conspired with the Russian government to create the document, which appears to show that Vietnam understated the number of its American prisoners by over 800.

"No, I found the document, the Russians didn't find it, they didn't know it was there," Mr. Morris told Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio in an interview from Washington.

Vietnamese officials have branded the document, an alleged report by General Tran Van Quang, as a fake. The U.S. Defence Department Monday urged careful treatment of the document and said it was still checking its authenticity.

According to the document, Vietnam held 1,205 prisoners in 1972 when it told the United States during peace talks in Paris it had only 360.

"I wouldn't expect them (Viet-

nam) to admit that what I said is true," Mr. Morris said. "I expect them to say that this is all a forgery."

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## Khmer Rouge attack more U.N. troops; blow up bridge

**PHNOM PENH (Agencies)** — The radical Khmer Rouge attacked U.N. peacekeepers posted in northwestern Cambodia overnight, prompting a firefight that left one Malaysian injured and a Khmer Rouge guerrilla dead, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge again blew up the same Chinese-built bridge: it first exploded last October, cutting off road traffic between Phnom Penh and central Kompong Thom province. The faction "used anti-tank mines to blow the bridge up" Monday, U.N. spokesman Eric Berman said, adding that two-wheel traffic was still able to cross.

The Chinese engineering battalion serving with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia first built the bridge, then rebuilt it after it was blown up last year.

"We are working on repairing it," Mr. Berman said.

Military reports also confirmed that on Sunday, a nearby secondary bridge — also blown up in October and also repaired by the Chinese — was exploded again.

In the overnight attack near the town of Sisophon, guerrillas raided the residence of civilian police officers from Malaysia for an hour, slightly injuring one officer in the leg, Mr. Berman said.

Dutch peacekeepers repelled the attack, leaving one Khmer Rouge dead and another injured.

The Malaysians were evacuated to the Dutch headquarters, Mr. Berman said.

The United Nations has decided to arm the U.N. civilian police, who have been coming under attack several times per week but until now have had to rely on the U.N. military compo-

nent for protection.

"There's a general concern about the security situation," Mr. Berman said.

He gave more details of fighting between Phnom Penh forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas in northwestern Siem Reap and central Kompong Thom provinces, which the United Nations had called Monday an escalation of fighting.

In an early morning attack on U.N. civilian police and electoral offices in Kompong Thom province Friday, Khmer Rouge guerrillas raided the offices only to find that the workers had already left, Mr. Berman said.

The district was the same one in which Bulgarian electoral officer Nikolai Nikolev was working last week before he responded to a plea for help from a Japanese colleague who radioed that he was being held by Khmer Rouge guerrillas. Mr. Nikolev arrived a half hour later to find his colleague dead of bullet wounds to the face and chest.

Meanwhile Khmer Rouge leaders have abandoned Phnom Penh, raising fears the guerrilla group will step up attacks across Cambodia ahead of elections scheduled for late May.

"For security reasons, (Khmer Rouge President) Mr. Khieu Samphan is leaving Phnom Penh," Mr. Berman told reporters Wednesday.

"We have been told Mr. Khieu Samphan intends to stop attending SNC meetings in Phnom Penh," Mr. Berman said, referring to the Supreme National Council, the all-faction reconciliation body that stands at the centre of U.N. peace plans for the country.

## Library of Congress marks 100,000th acquisition

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Library of Congress celebrated its 100 millionth acquisition — a collection of watercolours and sketches by John Rubens Smith depicting American life in the first decades of the 1800s. "This is an opportunity to celebrate the incredibly rich and diverse collections the Library of Congress has and the wondrous fact that the Congress... has seen to it that the nation has here in Washington the largest, most comprehensive storehouse of the knowledge of mankind that the world has ever known," said Librarian of Congress James Billington. Mr. Billington pointed out that the celebration of the 100 millionth acquisition was being held — fittingly — on the 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth. Jefferson's own books form the core of the library's collection. He sold his extensive personal book collection to Congress in 1815, to replace the books burned in 1814 when the British set fire to the U.S. Capitol, where the library was first housed.